SMILIN' JACK

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FOUR COLOR COMIC
No. 36

BY
ZACK
MOSLEY

A DELL MAGAZINE
DELL
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SMILIN' JACK

by ZACK MOSLEY.

HIS WEDDING POSTPONED BY AN EMERGENCY CALL, JACK TRIES TO FLY AN ACUTE APPENDICITIS CASE TO A HOSPITAL, BUT A STORM FORCES HIM TO CRASH LAND. WHEN THE OPERATION IS PERFORMED IN A FARMHOUSE, THE PATIENT PROVES TO BE DIXIE, JACK'S OLD SWEETHEART, NOW A WIDOW AND BLIND. MARY, JACK'S FIANCÉE GOES TO THE FARM TO CARE FOR DIXIE.

MARY, YOU'VE BEEN SWELL--YOU'VE NURSED DIXIE AS THOUGH SHE WERE YOUR OWN SISTER--BUT YOU MUST GET SOME SLEEP!
ALL RIGHT, JACK--I WILL GO UPSTAIRS AND REST A WHILE!
ZZZ
POOR DIXIE--I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL DO AFTER SHE'S WELL--SHE'S BLIND---HUSBAND DEAD--JACK FEELS AWFUL SORRY FOR HER, TOO---
--SYMPATHY SOMETIMES GOES VERY DEEP---W--WHAT---WHAT IF HIS LOVE FOR HER SHOULD RETURN---I--I---I'D DIE IF I LOST JACK----
WELL, I SEE TH' AMBULANCE COMING--- WE CERTAINLY DO APPRECIATE TH' USE OF YOUR FARMHOUSE!
DON'T MENTION IT--I'M SORRY MY WIFE WAS TOOK ILL AN' COULDN'T HELP MORE--- SHE'S BETTER NOW!
WHAT TH'--? MARY'S TRAILER!
YES--TH' AMBULANCE WAS LAID UP--SAY---WHAT'S WRONG---- WHY TH' CROSS-WIND LOOK? MARY WON'T MIND!
!?!
NO--OF COURSE NOT---BUT--WELL, YOU SEE, THAT TRAILER IS MARY'S HOME--AND TH' SICK GIRL IS DIXIE LEE--MY OLD SWEETHEART----
--OF COURSE THAT ROMANCE CRACKED UP LAST YEAR--STILL IT'S BOUND TO SEEM AWKWARD TO MARY--HAVING DIXIE IN--IN HER HOME!
GOSH, JACK, I'M SORRY--I DIDN'T KNOW--BUT THERE'S NOTHIN' ELSE WE CAN DO NOW!
DO YOU THINK-UM DIXIE MAYBE COME BETWEEN JACK AND MARY?
NO--AFTER TODAY DIXIE'LL BE IN TH' HOSPITAL AND MARY AND JACK CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL!
HEY LET'S GO!
HOW ARE YOU STANDING TH' RIDE, DIXIE? I TOLD JACK TO DRIVE CAREFULLY!
I'M OKAY! MARY, YOU'RE SO KIND TO LOOK AFTER ME---I WISH I COULD SEE YOU!

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I'M TERRIBLY SORRY YOU CAN'T SEE--HOW DID IT HAPPEN, DIXIE?
WE WERE ON A MEDICAL RESEARCH EXPEDITION IN AFRICA--WE CAUGHT A TROPICAL FEVER---IT LEFT ME BLIND AND KILLED MY HUSBAND!
LATER
WELL, MARY, HERE'S WHERE WE'LL LEAVE DIXIE TO RECUPERATE!
HOSPITAL
JACK--DIXIE'S HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE--AN' SHE HAS NO MONEY--LET ME KEEP HER IN MY TRAILER TILL SHE'S WELL!
MISS MARY IS BIG-HEARTED GIRL TO KEEP-UM DIXIE!
TOO BIG-HEARTED, I'M AFRAID! EVEN THOUGH JACK AND DIXIE'S ROMANCE DID SPIN IN, MARY IS JUST FANNING TH' ASHES OF LOVE!
--BUT JACK LOVE-UM MARY---GONNA MARRY HER--NOT DIXIE!
THAT'S TH' SET-UP NOW--BUT LOVE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BACK-FIRE!
WHILE DOWN-WIND IS WORRYING OVER JACK'S STATUS QUO, LITTLE DOES HE DREAM OF THE TROUBLE THAT IS JUST OVER THE HORIZON FOR HIMSELF
A FEW DAYS BEFORE, A CANDID CAMERAMAN SNAPPED DOWNWIND'S PICTURE AND IT HAS JUST APPEARED IN A NATIONAL MAGAZINE---
NATIONAL WEEKLY
LARRY, WHUT'S GOIN' ON? NEVER SEEN S'MANY PURTY GIRLS----
DUNNO, ALLAN--ALL SEEM TER BE HEADIN' FER JERK-WATER!
IN CHICAGO
EVELYN, LOOK! DOWNWIND IS IN JERK-WATER!
OH--THAT'S TH' FELLER YOU WERE ENGAGED TO THAT ALLUS LEFT FIFTY CENT TIPS!
WELSON'S CAFE
BUD
PA, HERE'S TH' AVIATOR THAT WUZ FORCED DOWN ON OUR FARM--AN' STAYED THREE WEEKS COURTIN' ME!
TH' SKONK! SAID HE AIMED TER MARRY YOU--THEN TOOK OFF IN TH' MIDDLE OF TH' NIGHT--WHAR'S MY SHOOTIN' IRON, BESS?!
IN THE OZARKS
AUNTIE, MY FIANCE IS IN JERKWATER--CHARTER A PLANE!!
WAIT TILL I LAY MY HANDS ON HIM, CARMEN--I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FACE MY FRIENDS SINCE HE FAILED TO SHOW UP FOR THE WEDDING!
ON PARK AVENUE
IN AKRON--
LAURA! YOU CONNECTED A PREACHER WITH SUD'S BAR ROOM AN' MRS. BLUE-NOSE WITH HYMIE TH' BOOKIE!
WELL, WHO WOULDN'T GET THEIR WIRES CROSSED---HERE'S TH' GUY THAT JILTED ME!
WEEKLY
THAT'S TH' RAT THAT MY GAL FELL FOR! SHE'S NEVER LOVED ME SINCE--START TH' COMPANY AMPHIBIAN!
RIGHT, BOSS--AN' HERE'S YER AXE!
IN AN OREGON LUMBER CAMP

ELSA! HERE'S TH' GUY THAT SOARED AWAY IN YOUR SAILPLANE TH' DAY HE WAS TO MARRY YOU!
YEAH—HE SAID HE WAS ONLY GOING FOR A QUICK HOP-- BUT I LOCATED MY GLIDER TEN DAYS LATER IN A POTATO PATCH ON LONG ISLAND!
WEEKLY
IN ELMIRA, NEW YORK
IT NO HOT TODAY--WHY YOU SWEATIN', DOWNWIND?
I DUNNO ---I FEEL STRANGE--AS IF A STORM IS APPROACHING --!!
MEAN-WHILE
SAY, WONDER WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE AT JERKWATER? PLANES ARE COMING THICKER THAN FLIES TO A MOLASSES JUG!
DUNNO--TH' ROADS ARE FULL-UM UP OF AUTOS, TOO!
MUST BE A CONVENTION OF PRETTY GIRLS---BOY--WHAT A BEVY OF DE-ICERS-----SAY! SOME OF 'EM LOOK FAMILIAR...
----GULP!! VERY FAMILIAR!!
ZACK MOSLEY
STOP, DOWNWIND, YOU RAT!
COME BACK, MY LOVE!
I'LL KILL YOU--YOU SKUNK!
WAIT, DOWN-WIND, DARLIN'!
GULP--IF I CAN JUST--PUFF--PUFF---REACH--THAT PLANE THAT'S IDLING THERE ON TH' LINE--
WOW! THAT'S REALLY GETTING AWAY BY TH' SKIN O' YOUR FUSELAGE--AM I LUCKY--AND ON FRIDAY TH' THIRTEENTH, TOO!!

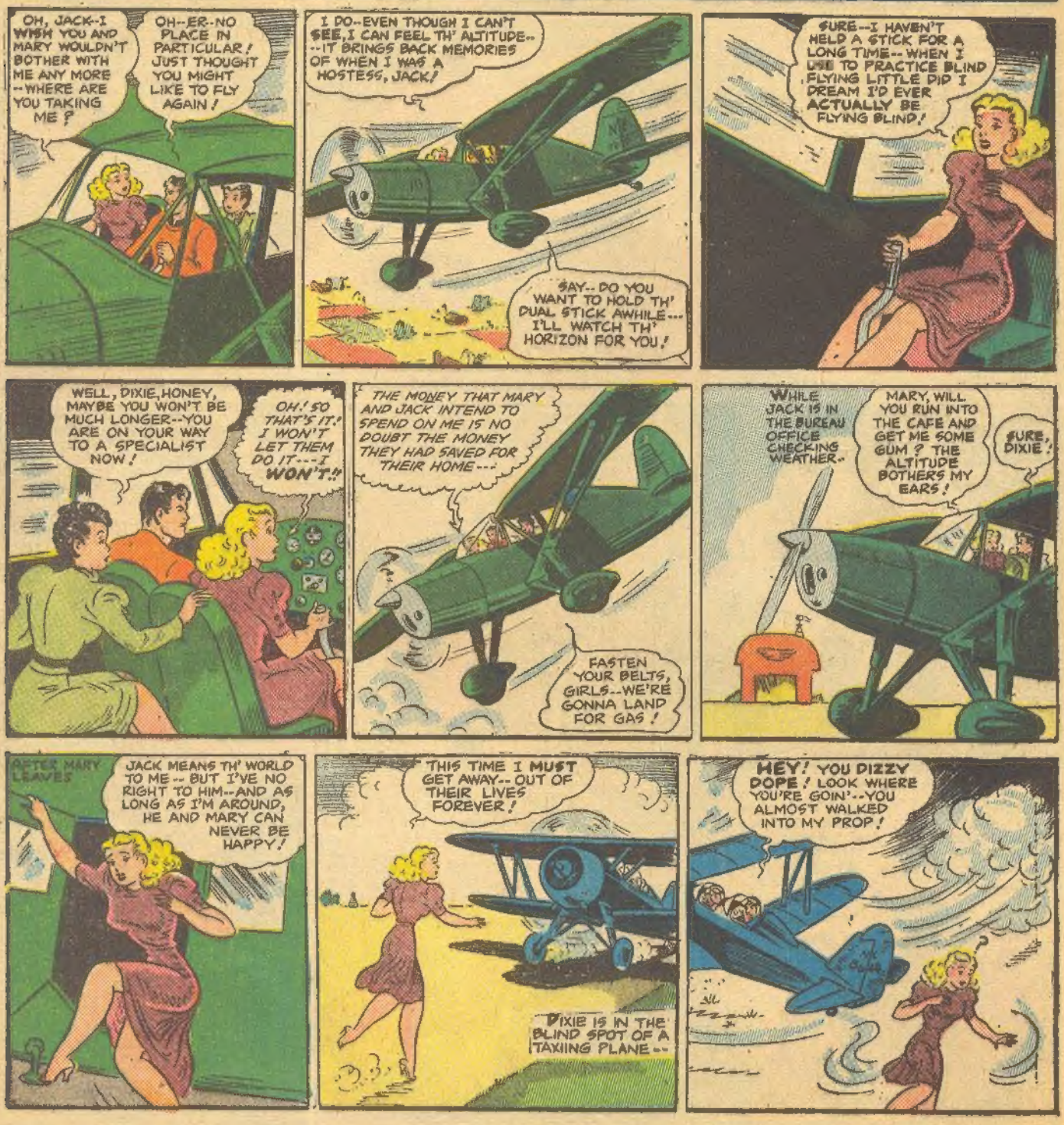
-- BUT THE THIRTEENTH ISN'T OVER -- SOME OF DOWNWIND'S EX-DE-ICERS HAVE BEECHES, SEVERSKYS, NORTHROPS, SPARTANS, LOCKHEEDS, VULTEES, ETC --
DOWNWIND CERTAINLY IS PROVING TH' OLD PROVERB -- "BE SURE YOUR SINS WILL FIND YOU OUT!"
ALL TH' LI'L DE-ICERS THAT DOWN-WIND LEFT-UM BEHIND GONNA CATCH-UM UP WITH HIM
I HATE TO THINK WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN THEY CATCH HIM-- --AND I THOUGHT I WAS HAVING GIRL TROUBLE--
-- BUT WORRYING OVER MARY AND DIXIE IS A CHILD'S PROBLEM COMPARED TO TH' INTERNATIONAL PETTICOAT CRISIS DOWNWIND IS FACING!
ME GLAD ME NOT PURTY SO ME NO GET MIXED UP WITH GIRLS--
--OH--THERE YOU ARE, FAT STUFF, HONEY---
HELLO, MARY --HELLO, DIXIE-- HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?
FINE, JACK! SAY, WE'VE BEEN HEARING MORE PLANES TODAY-- WAS THERE AN AIR RACE?
I'LL SAY! DOWN-WIND'S EX-DE-ICERS WERE AFTER HIM-- --BUT HE DIVED INTO A STORM CLOUD... --HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE!
OH, LOOK! THERE GOES FAT STUFF WITH A GIRL!
YES, THAT'S WOO WOO BALI-- SHE WAS A SOUTH SEA ISLAND DANCER BEFORE SHE GOT TOO PLUMP AND LOST HER JOB!
MARY, WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT DIXIE?
I DON'T KNOW, JACK-- --SHE TALKS ABOUT YOU ALL TH' TIME--AND SHE'S HAD SO MANY BAD BREAKS--I--I-- JUST HAVEN'T TH' HEART TO TELL HER WE ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
JACK, I HAVEN'T TH' HEART TO TELL DIXIE WE'RE TO BE MARRIED-- I JUS' KNOW SHE'S STILL CARRYING THE TORCH FOR YOU!
NO, MARY, THAT WAS OVER LONG AGO-- BUT I WILL TELL HER BEFORE THIS GOES ANY FARTHER!
HELLO, DIXIE---
HELLO, JACK--IT'S SO NICE OF YOU TO VISIT ME SO OFTEN--
--I DON'T DESERVE ALL THIS ATTENTION--I DON'T WANT TO SEEM MELO-DRAMATIC, JACK-- BUT AFTER TH' JOLTS I'VE HAD LATELY ONE REALIZES THAT TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE YOU IS--IS---
--WELL, JACK--IT GIVES ONE COURAGE TO WANT TO GO ON LIVING--IN THIS WORLD OF DARKNESS!

MARY, I--I--
I UNDERSTAND, JACK--YOU--YOU COULDN'T TELL HER EITHER!
SAY, FAT STUFF, HOW ARE YOU DOING IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR--CAN YOU SPELL CAT YET?
ME STILL A LITTLE DUMB--ME ALWAYS FORGET-UM TH' LAST LETTER!
MEANWHILE, WE SEE TWO TEACHERS...
TEACHING IN HIGH SCHOOL IS EXASPERATING---I NEVER SAW SO MUCH PUPPY LOVE! MY PUPILS ARE SO LOVE-SICK THEY CAN'T STUDY!
TEACHING THE PRIMER IS NO PICNIC--BUT AT LEAST, I DON'T HAVE TO CONTEND WITH ROMANCE IN THAT GRADE!
LATER...
FAT STUFF, DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME---I SAID SPELL CAT---SAY, WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?
cat
2 2 4
ABC
cat
SAY, WHAT'S EATING SMILIN' JACK? LOOKS LIKE HE WAS CLOSED IN FROM TH' COLLAR BUTTON UP!
YEAH, SEEMS TO HAVE HIS FLAPS DOWN AND NO PLACE TO LAND!
HE'S GOT DE-ICERITIS!
DE-ICERITIS?!
YEAH--DE-ICER TROUBLE! GIRL TROUBLE! HE WAS GONNA MARRY MARY--BUT NOW DIXIE IS BACK!
DIXIE! THAT LITTLE HEEL!? WHY, AFTER TH' WAY SHE JILTED JACK, I'D THROW HER OUT SO FAST IT'D...
DIXIE'S OKAY! I DIDN'T BLAME HER FOR GIVIN' JACK TH' AIR AFTER HE KILLED HER BROTHER--EVEN THOUGH IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!!
NO! MARY'S TH' GIRL FOR JACK--SHE'S TH' KINDEST, SWEETEST KID THERE IS...!!
NO! DIXIE'S TH' GIRL FOR JACK----WHETHER SHE DID WRONG OR NOT, SHE'S MORE THAN PAID FOR IT!
JACK, ME HEAR-UM BOYS AROUND AIRPORT TALK-UM ABOUT WHO YOU SHOULD MARRY--MARY OR DIXIE!?
OH--SO MY LIFE IS AN OPEN BOOK--AND THEY SAY WOMEN ARE GOSSIPS! IT'S NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS WHO I LOVE!
THAT WHAT FAT STUFF THINK, TOO--THEY BOTH NICE GIRLS---SO ME FIGURE OUT HOW YOU CAN SOLVE-UM PROBLEM!
WELL, IF YOU CAN YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM, GUNGA STUFF!
YOU TAKE MISS MARY AND DIXIE ON CLIPPER AND FLY TO SOUTH SEA ISLAND WHERE FAT STUFF COME FROM!
THAT'D BE A NICE TRIP, BUT HOW DOES IT SOLVE MY PROBLEMS?

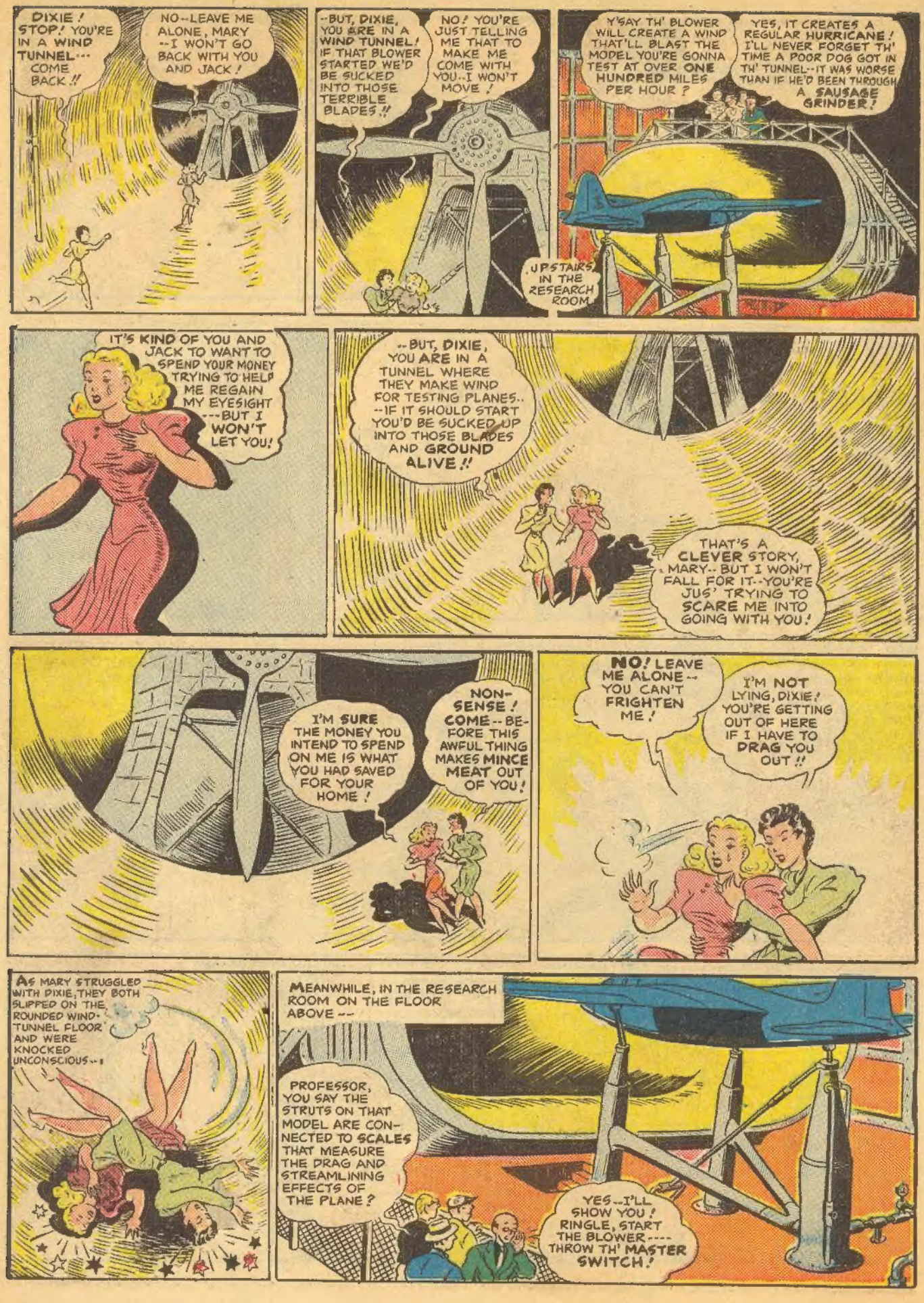
EASY! ON OUR ISLAND LAW SAY MAN CAN HAVE-UM TWO WIVES--SO YOU MARRY-UM BOTH--FAT STUFF NOT SO DUMB ALL TIME !!
WOO WOO, DO YOU LIKE-UM FAT STUFF MUCH ?
VERY MUCH, FAT STUFF, HONEY !
THAT NICE OF YOU--BUT ME DUMB SOMETIME!
OH, YOU'LL LEARN! I WAS TALKING WITH YOUR PRIMER TEACHER TODAY--SHE SAYS ANY DAY NOW YOU'LL BE SPELLING CAT!
WELL, ME NOT QUITE MILLUMAIRE YET--BUT ME WORK AFTER SCHOOL WASH-UM PLANES AND SWEEP-UM HANGARS--
THAT'S ALL RIGHT--SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS KNOW HOW TO LIVE CHEAP--SAY, WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT ?
WELL--ME NOT VERY PRETTY--BUT--WILL--WILL---YOU MARRY-UM FAT STUFF ?!
!?!
SO YOU AND WOO WOO ARE GONNA BE MARRIED---- CONGRATULATIONS! --SAY, DO YOU WANT ME TO GO TO TH' CITY HALL WITH YOU TO GET YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE ?
NO, ME CAN FIND IT---
LICENSE BUREAU
MOTOR VEHICLE BUREAU
MARRIAGE LICENSE
DOG LICENSE
SAY, WHY TH' LOW PRESSURE LOOK--WOULDN'T TH' CLERK SELL YOU A LICENSE ?
SURE--BUT HIM ASK-UM ME LOTS CRAZY QUESTIONS--AND WHEN HIM HAND ME LICENSE HIM SAY---
--WHEN YOU TAKE-UM HER ON SIDEWALK YOU GOTTA KEEP-UM HER TIE TO LEASH AND PUT-UM MUZZLE ON HER!! WOO WOO NO GONNA LIKE THAT!
DOG LICENSE
ME SO DUMB SOMETIME--WHY CAN'T ME WRITE-UM BIG FIGURES LIKE YOU, JACK ?
THEY'RE NOT SO BIG--I'M FIGURING MY BANK BALANCE AND TH' NUMBERS DON'T GO MUCH HIGHER THAN A POLITICIAN'S LICENSE PLATE!
LATER.
--BUT IT ISN'T TOO BAD.. BESIDES, TH' MONEY I GOT FOR DOIN' SPECIAL WORK FOR TH' COAST GUARD, MY FLYING SCHOOL SHOWS A PROFIT!
IT NONE OF MY BUSINESS --BUT HAVE YOU GOT-UM ENOUGH MONEY SO YOU CAN MARRY MISS MARY?
YES, FAT STUFF--I'VE ENOUGH TO BUY THAT SUITE OF FURNITURE MARY LIKES--AND MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT ON A SMALL HOUSE ----

SMILIN' JACK

by ZACK MOSLEY


OH, JACK--I WISH YOU AND MARY WOULDN'T BOTHER WITH ME ANY MORE --WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
OH--ER--NO PLACE IN PARTICULAR! JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO FLY AGAIN!
I DO--EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SEE, I CAN FEEL TH' ALTITUDE-- --IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF WHEN I WAS A HOSTESS, JACK!
SAY-- DO YOU WANT TO HOLD TH' DUAL STICK AWHILE--- I'LL WATCH TH' HORIZON FOR YOU!
SURE--I HAVEN'T HELD A STICK FOR A LONG TIME-- WHEN I USE TO PRACTICE BLIND FLYING LITTLE DID I DREAM I'D EVER ACTUALLY BE FLYING BLIND!
WELL, DIXIE, HONEY, MAYBE YOU WON'T BE MUCH LONGER--YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO A SPECIALIST NOW!
OH! SO THAT'S IT! I WON'T LET THEM DO IT---I WON'T!!
THE MONEY THAT MARY AND JACK INTEND TO SPEND ON ME IS NO DOUBT THE MONEY THEY HAD SAVED FOR THEIR HOME---
FASTEN YOUR BELTS, GIRLS--WE'RE GONNA LAND FOR GAS!
WHILE JACK IS IN THE BUREAU OFFICE CHECKING WEATHER--
MARY, WILL YOU RUN INTO THE CAFE AND GET ME SOME GUM? THE ALTITUDE BOTHERS MY EARS!
SURE, DIXIE!
AFTER MARY LEAVES
JACK MEANS TH' WORLD TO ME -- BUT I'VE NO RIGHT TO HIM--AND AS LONG AS I'M AROUND, HE AND MARY CAN NEVER BE HAPPY!
THIS TIME I MUST GET AWAY-- OUT OF THEIR LIVES FOREVER!
DIXIE IS IN THE BLIND SPOT OF A TAXIING PLANE--
HEY! YOU DIZZY DOPE! LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'--YOU ALMOST WALKED INTO MY PROP!

NO WONDER! LOOK AT HER STAGGER--- WOW! WHAT A LOAD SHE'S GOT !!
SHE MUSTA HAD ABOUT FIFTEEN OR TWENTY TOO MANY!!
GOSH! I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYBODY AS STIFF AS THAT SINCE GRANDPA DRANK A GALLON OF CORN !!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO SEE A MAN LOOP LEGGED --BUT TO SEE A GIRL IN THAT CONDITION--WELL-- --HOW CAN A WOMAN SINK SO LOW!?
FELLOWS, DID YOU SEE A GIRL WANDERING AROUND HERE ?
A DIZZY BLONDE ?
YES, BLONDE-- ABOUT MY SIZE---
YEAH--WE SAW HER--AND WAS SHE STINKO !! STAGGERING ALL OVER TH' PLACE-- DRUNK AS A BILLY GOAT!
DRUNK ! YOU FOOLS--THAT POOR GIRL IS BLIND !!
BLIND!? OH-- WE DIDN'T KNOW --- HEAVEN FORGIVE US !
OH! FROM ALL TH' JUNK I'M STUMBLING INTO I MUST BE BEHIND A HANGAR OR A PLANE FACTORY!
OH--A WALL--- --AND--I FEEL A DOOR--I HOPE IT'S A BACK DOOR THAT'S SELDOM USED--I MUST FIND A PLACE TO HIDE !
OH-- WHAT BAD LUCK --- IT'S LOCKED --- BUT WAIT--
--NO--THE LOCK ISN'T FASTENED-- SOME ONE EVIDENTLY DIDN'T SNAP IT TIGHT ENOUGH TO LOCK !
DANGER
WIND TUNNEL
EMERGENCY DOOR
--NO TELLIN' WHAT DIXIE WILL RUN INTO---THERE'S A DOOR OPEN-- --I'LL LOOK IN THERE !
DANGER
WIND TUNNEL


DIXIE! STOP! YOU'RE IN A WIND TUNNEL··· COME BACK!!
NO--LEAVE ME ALONE, MARY --I WON'T GO BACK WITH YOU AND JACK!
--BUT, DIXIE, YOU ARE IN A WIND TUNNEL! IF THAT BLOWER STARTED WE'D BE SUCKED INTO THOSE TERRIBLE BLADES!!
NO! YOU'RE JUST TELLING ME THAT TO MAKE ME COME WITH YOU--I WON'T MOVE!
Y'SAY TH' BLOWER WILL CREATE A WIND THAT'LL BLAST THE MODEL YOU'RE GONNA TEST AT OVER ONE HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR?
YES, IT CREATES A REGULAR HURRICANE! I'LL NEVER FORGET TH' TIME A POOR DOG GOT IN TH' TUNNEL--IT WAS WORSE THAN IF HE'D BEEN THROUGH A SAUSAGE GRINDER!
UPSTAIRS IN THE RESEARCH ROOM
IT'S KIND OF YOU AND JACK TO WANT TO SPEND YOUR MONEY TRYING TO HELP ME REGAIN MY EYESIGHT ---BUT I WON'T LET YOU!
--BUT, DIXIE, YOU ARE IN A TUNNEL WHERE THEY MAKE WIND FOR TESTING PLANES.. --IF IT SHOULD START YOU'D BE SUCKED UP INTO THOSE BLADES AND GROUND ALIVE!!
THAT'S A CLEVER STORY, MARY-- BUT I WON'T FALL FOR IT--YOU'RE JUS' TRYING TO SCARE ME INTO GOING WITH YOU!
I'M SURE THE MONEY YOU INTEND TO SPEND ON ME IS WHAT YOU HAD SAVED FOR YOUR HOME!
NON-SENSE! COME--BE-FORE THIS AWFUL THING MAKES MINCE MEAT OUT OF YOU!
NO! LEAVE ME ALONE-- YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME!
I'M NOT LYING, DIXIE! YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE IF I HAVE TO DRAG YOU OUT!!
AS MARY STRUGGLED WITH DIXIE, THEY BOTH SLIPPED ON THE ROUNDED WIND-TUNNEL FLOOR AND WERE KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS--!
MEANWHILE, IN THE RESEARCH ROOM ON THE FLOOR ABOVE --
PROFESSOR, YOU SAY THE STRUTS ON THAT MODEL ARE CON-NECTED TO SCALES THAT MEASURE THE DRAG AND STREAMLINING EFFECTS OF THE PLANE?
YES--I'LL SHOW YOU! RINGLE, START THE BLOWER---- THROW TH' MASTER SWITCH!

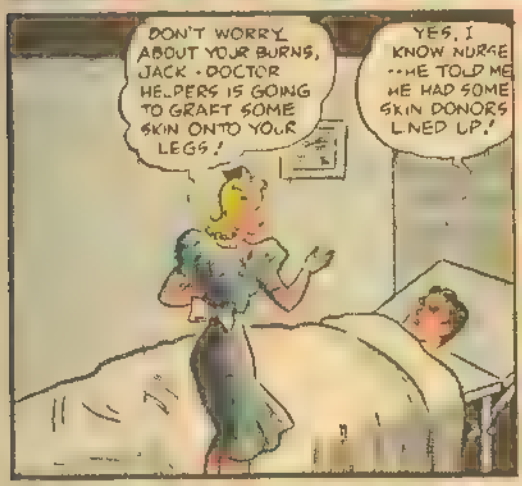
WITH A SUCTION OF 118 MILES PER HOUR ABOUT TO BEGIN, MARY AND DIXIE LIE UNCONSCIOUS AT THE FOOT OF THE GIANT BLADES
MEANWHILE JACK IS LOOKING FOR THE GIRLS..
MAYBE THEY'RE AROUND BEHIND THESE HANGARS AND PLANE FACTORY BUILDINGS!
OH-OH--I ALMOST WALKED UNDER THAT LADDER--I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN BREAKING SO BAD LATELY
--THERE'S NO SENSE IN TEMPTIN' FATE! I'LL GO TH' OTHER WAY!
AS JACK REVERSES HIS DIRECTION IN THE ALLEY-WAY TO AVOID WALKING UNDER A LADDER, HE SEES--
OH-OH--A BLACK CAT! WELL, I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS--BUT I'D RATHER CHANCE WALKING UNDER A LADDER THAN CROSS THAT EIGHT-BALL'S PATH!
GOING BACK THE OTHER WAY JACK FINDS THE OPEN WIND-TUNNEL DOOR --ENTERS AND SEES--
MARY! DIXIE! GOOD NIGHT--THEY'RE BOTH OUT COLD!!
WHEW! THAT BLOWER MAKES WIND OVER A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR--IF IT SHOULD START WE'D BE SUCKED UP INTO IT SO FAST---
--IT HAS STARTED!!
IT'S STARTED! I MUST DRAG THESE GIRLS TO THAT EMERGENCY EXIT BEFORE THAT GIANT PROP BUILDS UP TOO MUCH SUCTION!!
GULP..IT'S ALREADY TURNING UP SO FAST I CAN'T MAKE ANY HEADWAY--I'M STILL IN TH' SAME SPOT!
IT'S SPEEDING UP... --TH' WIND IS GETTING STRONGER--- I'M LOSING MY FOOTING --WE'RE BEING SUCKED TOWARD THOSE BLADES!!

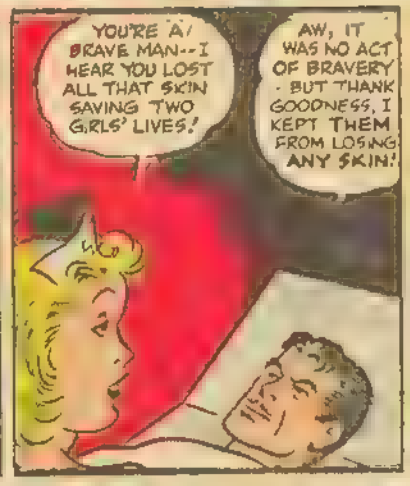
THANK HEAVENS DIXIE AND MARY ARE UNCONSCIOUS - --THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM--POOR KIDS-- --THIS IS THE END---
- NO MAYBE NOT--- THERE'S SOME SORT OF PIPE THAT CUTS THROUGH TH' SIDE OF THIS TUNNEL--MAYBE I CAN WORM MY WAY TO IT!
GULP! MADE IT! NOW TO LOCK MY LEGS AR'UND T AN' HANG ON!
--BUT INSTANTLY A FLASH OF PAIN GRIPS JACK - THE PIPE HE HAS LOCKED HIS LEGS TO IS A HOT STEAM PIPE--
MY LEGS ARE BURNING! MY GRIP IS WEAKENING - -MARY AND DIXIE ARE ABOUT TO BE SUCKED OUT OF MY ARMS--
BUT WHY SHOULD THEY BOTH BE GROUND ALIVE? BY LETTING ONE GO I - I- MIGHT HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO SAVE THE OTHER -
HOW CAN I CHOOSE BETWEEN MARY AND DIXIE--MAYBE TH' BLOWER WILL STOP BEFORE I'M FORCED TO---
--BUT HOW CAN I EVEN THINK OF FEEDING EITHER GIRL TO THAT MURDEROUS GRINDER-?-
-- BUT BOTH WILL SOON BE IN THE JAWS OF THAT RAVENOUS MONSTER IF I DON'T SACRIFICE ONE !!!
WIND-TUNNEL CROSS-SECTION -
FULL SCALE MODEL IN RESEARCH ROOM --
IRON GRATE
STRUTS RECORD EFFECTS OF WIND ON MODEL
FLOOR
BLOWER SUCKS WIND THROUGH CHAMBER AND BLOWS IT UPSTAIRS TO MODEL
STEAM PIPE TO RADIATOR
MOTOR
JACK MARY DIXIE
EXIT
IRON GRATE
BLOWER PROPELLER
UPSTAIRS IN THE RESEARCH ROOM -
PROFESSOR, I HAVE ALL THE RECORDINGS OF THE DRAG AND STREAMLINING EFFECTS ON THE MODEL AT THREE-QUARTER SPEED!
GOOD, YOU CAN SWITCH OFF THE BLOWER--
--NO--WAIT! HERE'S COLONEL CHUCK FROM THE ARMY--HE'LL WANT TO SEE THE DEMONSTRATION FOR HIMSELF---LEAVE THE BLOWER RUNNING !!

SUMMONING HIS LAST OUNCE OF ENERGY, JACK GETS A FAIR GRIP ON BOTH GIRLS WITH ONE ARM--AND WITH HIS FREE HAND RIPS DIXIE'S DRESS--
--TH' WIND IS FINISHING TH' JOB---
--I'LL BE TORN TO SHREDS IN THAT PROPELLER AND PARTS OF IT ARE SURE TO BE BLOWN THROUGH THE GRATE BEHIND THE BLOWER AND CARRIED UP THE TUNNEL TO THE RESEARCH ROOM!!
SAY, PROFESSOR, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ANYTHING TO GET INTO THE WIND-TUNNEL DOWN-STAIRS?
NO, THERE'S AN EMERGENCY DOOR IN THE PROPELLER CHAMBER--BUT IT'S ALWAYS LOCKED--- WHY DO YOU ASK, COLONEL?
WELL, I'D SWEAR I SEE LITTLE FRAGMENTS OF SOMETHING BLOWING BY!
NO, COLONEL CHUCK, IT'S PROBABLY A BILIOUS CONDITION AN' YOU'RE JUST SEEING SPOTS BEFORE YOUR EYES---
--I GET 'EM SOMETIMES-- - BUT I ALWAYS TAKE A GOOD DOSE OF LITTLE LIGHTNING PILLS---
PERHAPS SO MY STOMACH HAS BEEN UPSET LATELY--- - WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THOSE PILLS?
YES COLONEL, SPOTS BEFORE YOUR EYES FROM BILIOUSNESS CAN BE MOST ANNOYING --I SEE SPOTS SOMETIMES WITH TAILS ON 'EM!
WELL, IF IT'S BILIOUS SPOTS I'M SEEING, HOW DOES IT HAPPEN ONE JUST WRAPPED ITSELF OVER THE LEADING EDGE OF THAT WING?
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT ISN'T BILIOUS SPOTS--IT'S SOME SORT OF FABRIC! ---- STOP TH' BLOWER!!
THANK HEAVEN! IT STOPPED! NOW I CAN DRAG THE GIRLS TO SAFETY!
AS JACK RISES, HE DISCOVERS THAT THE SCORCHING PIPE HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL...
GOOD NIGHT--I CAN'T WALK-- --I---I'M PARALYZED!!

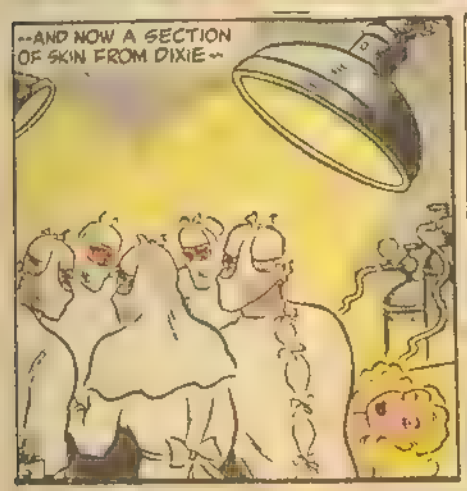
RUSHING INTO THE BLOWER CHAMBER, THE RESEARCH MEN FOUND A PITIFUL SIGHT--
LOOK AT THIS POOR CHAP'S LEGS -- CALL AN AMBULANCE!
CLANG! CLANG!
HOW IS JACK, DOCTOR?
THE TENDONS IN HIS LEGS ARE BADLY BURNED
I DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU--- ---BUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES CAN RESULT FROM THIRD DEGREE BURNS--
YOU DON'T MEAN JACK MAY- MAY- --NEVER WALK AGAIN ?!!
DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THIS CHAP'S CLOSE FRIENDS THAT WE CAN CONTACT ?
WELL, DOWNWIND JAXON WAS JACK'S BEST FRIEND--- BUT HE DISAPPEARED-- --WHY DO YOU ASK, DOCTOR ?
WE MUST HAVE SOME SKIN TO GRAFT ONTO HIS BURNS--WE'LL NEED TWO PERSONS TO DONATE--WE CAN'T TAKE TOO MUCH SKIN FROM ONE PERSON !
WE ARE JACK'S CLOSEST FRIENDS, DOCTOR- - AND THERE ARE TWO OF US !
LATER
YOU SAY TH' BURNS I GOT FROM WRAPPIN' MY LEGS AROUND THAT STEAM PIPE ARE SO SERIOUS I MUST HAVE SKIN GRAFTED ON-- WHERE'LL YOU GET TH' SKIN ?
WE--ER--HAVE SKIN DONORS-- YOU KNOW, SAME AS BLOOD DONORS!
DOCTOR HELPERS, I'VE PREPARED MISS DIXIE AN' MISS MARY FOR SURGERY!
IT'S GOOD THEY'RE BOTH DONATING I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE ENOUGH SKIN FROM JUST ONE!
GIRLS TAKE SUCH A PRIDE IN THEIR LOVELY SKIN IT'S A RARITY TO FIND TWO THAT ARE ACTUALLY WILLING TO SACRIFICE PART OF IT!
FOR JACK, WE'D DO ANYTHING--BUT YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM WE WERE DOING THIS, DID YOU ?
NO.

SMILIN' JACK


DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR BURNS, JACK - DOCTOR HELPERS IS GOING TO GRAFT SOME SKIN ONTO YOUR LEGS!
YES, I KNOW NURSE --HE TOLD ME HE HAD SOME SKIN DONORS LINED UP!


YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN--I HEAR YOU LOST ALL THAT SKIN SAVING TWO GIRLS' LIVES!
AW, IT WAS NO ACT OF BRAVERY - BUT THANK GOODNESS, I KEPT THEM FROM LOSING ANY SKIN!

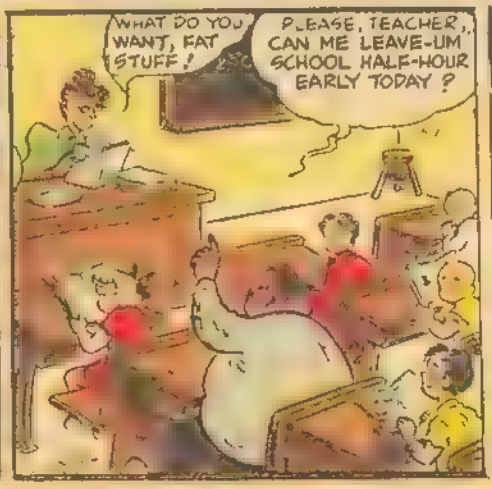
--BUT AT THIS MOMENT, SURGEONS ARE REMOVING A SECTION OF SKIN FROM MARY--

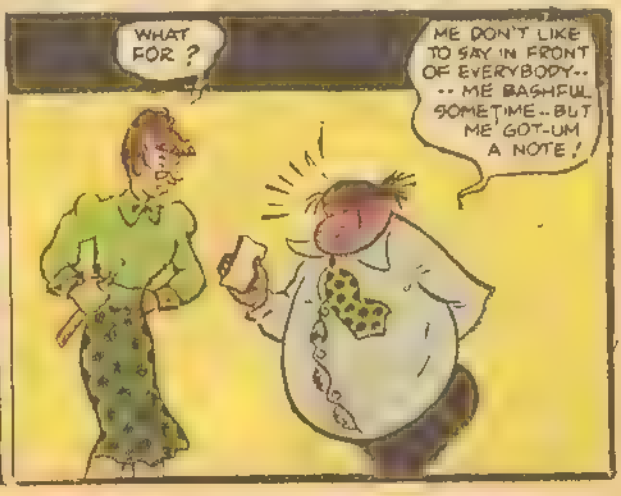

--AND NOW A SECTION OF SKIN FROM DIXIE--

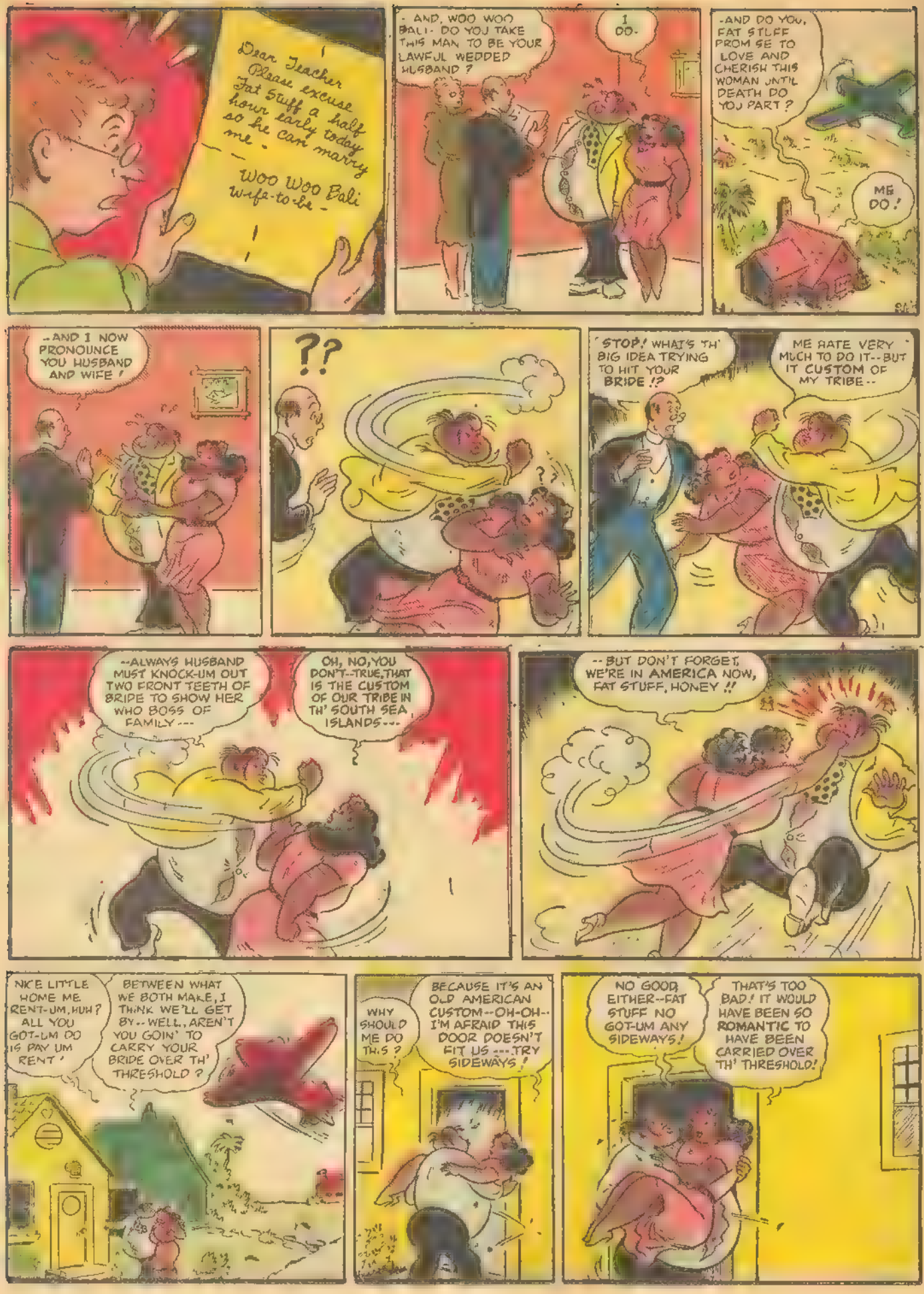
SAY, DOCTOR, WHY WILL NO ONE TELL ME WHO MY SKIN DONORS WERE? I WANT TO THANK THEM!
WELL, THEY DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW -- BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW-- --IT WAS DIXIE AND MARY!

WHAT! DIXIE! MARY! NO, I WON'T HAVE IT! YOU CAN'T TAKE SKIN FROM THEM!!
NOW, NOW, JACK--IT'S ALREADY DONE - THEY INSISTED UPON DOING IT FOR YOU!

--NOW--THEY'RE BOTH ACTUALLY A PART OF ME!!

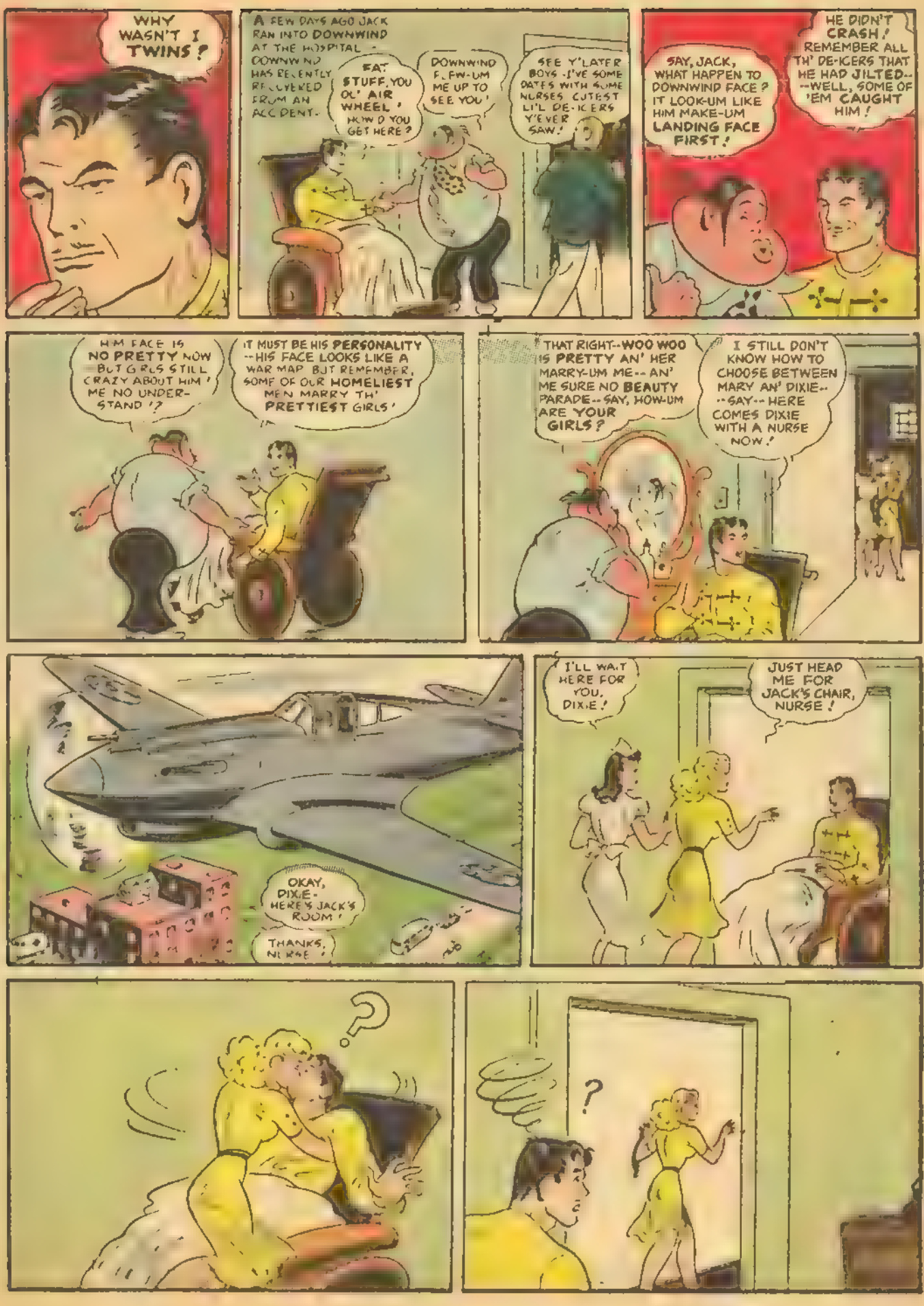

WHAT DO YOU WANT, FAT STUFF!
PLEASE, TEACHER, CAN ME LEAVE-UM SCHOOL HALF-HOUR EARLY TODAY?


WHAT FOR?
ME DON'T LIKE TO SAY IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY-- -- ME BASHFUL SOMETIME--BUT ME GOT-UM A NOTE!


Dear Teacher
Please excuse Fat Stuff a half hour early today so he can marry me.
Woo Woo Bali
wife-to-be
- AND, WOO WOO BALI - DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN TO BE YOUR LAWFUL WEDDED HUSBAND ?
I DO-
-AND DO YOU, FAT STUFF PROMISE TO LOVE AND CHERISH THIS WOMAN UNTIL DEATH DO YOU PART ?
ME DO !
--AND I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE !
??
'STOP ! WHAT'S TH' BIG IDEA TRYING TO HIT YOUR BRIDE !?
ME HATE VERY MUCH TO DO IT--BUT IT CUSTOM OF MY TRIBE--
--ALWAYS HUSBAND MUST KNOCK-UM OUT TWO FRONT TEETH OF BRIDE TO SHOW HER WHO BOSS OF FAMILY---
OH, NO, YOU DON'T--TRUE, THAT IS THE CUSTOM OF OUR TRIBE IN TH' SOUTH SEA ISLANDS---
--BUT DON'T FORGET, WE'RE IN AMERICA NOW, FAT STUFF, HONEY !!
NICE LITTLE HOME ME RENT-UM, HUH ? ALL YOU GOT-UM DO IS PAY UM RENT '
BETWEEN WHAT WE BOTH MAKE, I THINK WE'LL GET BY--WELL, AREN'T YOU GOIN' TO CARRY YOUR BRIDE OVER TH' THRESHOLD ?
WHY SHOULD ME DO THIS ?
BECAUSE IT'S AN OLD AMERICAN CUSTOM--OH-OH--I'M AFRAID THIS DOOR DOESN'T FIT US ---TRY SIDEWAYS !
NO GOOD, EITHER--FAT STUFF NO GOT-UM ANY SIDEWAYS !
THAT'S TOO BAD ! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO ROMANTIC TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OVER TH' THRESHOLD !

DON'T WORRY--FAT STUFF ROMANTIC GUY--SEE--ME FIGURE OUT WAY TO CARRY-UM YOU ACROSS THRESH-UM-HOLD!
JACK, WHILE YOU'RE RECUPERATING, WE'D LIKE TO PUT YOU IN A TWO-BED WARD-- --WE NEED THIS ROOM--
SURE-- I'LL ENJOY SOME COMPANY-- I GET AWFUL BORED TRYING TO TELL MY-SELF FUNNY STORIES!
LATER
WELL, FELLOW, SINCE WE'RE ROOM MATES WE MIGHT AS WELL INTRODUCE OURSELVES-- --MY NAME IS----
WHY, SMILIN' JACK-- YOU O.' MOTH-EATEN TAIL-SKID!!
OH-- YOU KNOW ME-- WELL, I HOPE YOU'LL FOR GIVE ME BUT I DON'T SEEM TO PLACE YOU--!?
WHAT! YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME ??
WELL, YOUR VOICE IS FAMILIAR--BUT I CAN'T SAY I RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE---
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR OL' PAL, DOWNWIND JAXON ??
YOU--? DOWNWIND!? --BUT--YOUR FACE--WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S A LONG STORY WITH A SHORT ENDING--- REMEMBER TH' LAST TIME YOU SAW ME?
YES. A LOT OF LITTLE DE-ICERS THAT YOU HAD JILTED WERE CHASING YOU --YOU ESCAPED IN A PLANE!
YEAH--WELL, NOW LOOK HOW MY NOSE IS SMEARED ALL OVER MY FACE --CHEEK SCARRED EYE ALMOST CLOSED!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR FACE REALLY CHEWED UP AN INSTRUMENT PANEL--- WHERE DID YOU CRASH?
CRASH? I DION'T CRASH! SOME OF MY EX-DE-ICERS FINALLY CAUGHT ME!!
MISTER JAXON--I HAVE GOOD NEWS--THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU'RE OKAY TO LEAVE TODAY!
OH.. ALL RIGHT!
SAY, YOU LOOK AS IF YOU HAD YOUR FLAPS DOWN AN' NO PLACE TO LAND! I'D THINK YOU'D BE TICKLED PINK TO GET OUT OF HERE--
AW, WHAT'S THERE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT?
YOU! TH' DOWNWIND TALKING LIKE THAT? YOU--TH GREATEST ROMEO --TH' MODERN CASANOVA---
--YOU--WITH PRACTICALLY EVERY LITTLE DE-ICER IN TH' LAND WILD ABOUT YOU-- --AND YOU ARE NOT HAPPY!!
THAT'S JUST IT-- AND I'M STILL WILD ABOUT PRETTY LITTLE DE-ICERS..

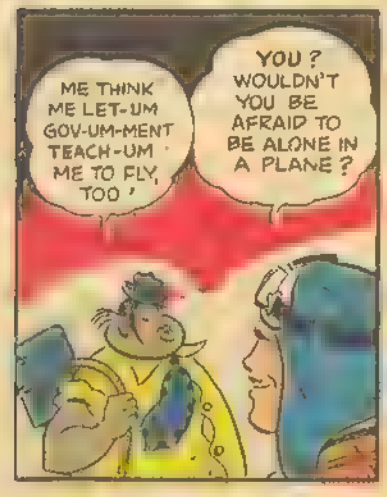
--BUT WHAT G-RL WILL GO OUT WITH A GUY WITH A PUSS LIKE MINE !!?
YOU GOTTA SNAP OUTTA THIS LOW PRESSURE AREA-- --HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR DE-ICER DAYS ARE OVER?
BECAUSE! THIS PUSS OF MINE WOULD STOP A CLOCK!
NONSENSE! I KNEW A GUY ONCE THAT HAD A FACE LIKE AN UN-MADE BED--AND HE MARRIED A MISS AMERICA!
GET OUT YOUR LITTLE BLACK BOOKS--MAKE A TEST RUN--- START CALLING UP DE-ICERS!
WELL--ALL RIGHT, I'LL TRY--BUT IF ANY OF 'EM DIE FROM FRIGHT REMEMBER, IT WAS YOUR IDEA!!
GOSH--THREE DAYS HAVE GONE BY AND NO WORD FROM DOWNWIND --GUESS HIS DE ICER DAYS ARE OVER. OR HE WOULD HAVE CALLED---
RIGHT THIS WAY, GIRLS---
JACK, I WANT YOU TO MEET TH' CUTEST LITTLE BEVY OF DE-ICERS THAT EVER DE-ICED!
WHY ER -HELLO, GIRLS--- LOOKS LIKE DOWNWIND'S DOIN' OKAY!
SO ARE WE! WE'RE HAVIN' TH' GRANDEST TME -DOWN WIND AND I WENT CANOEING!
HE TOOK ME FOR TH' LONGEST MOONLIGHT DRIVE!
WELL, JACK, I MUST BE GOING! A BEAUTIFUL WIDOW HAS INVITED ME TO HER COUNTRY ESTATE FOR DINNER AGAIN TONIGHT!
AND YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE THROUGH!
--AND WITH A FACE LIKE A MILDEWED PRUNE-- WHAT A GUY---IT MUST BE HIS PERSONALITY!!
IT'S NICE UP HERE ON THE SUN DECK OF THE HOSPITAL!
WE'RE SORRY YOU CAN'T BE UP AN' AROUND WITH US!
TH' DOC SAYS I'LL BE UP IN A FEW DAYS, TOO--SAY, MARY, I WANT TO THANK YOU AN' DIXIE AGAIN--
FROM TH' BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR SACRIFICING PART OF YOUR OWN SKIN TO GRAFT ON TO ME!
FORGET IT, JACK! IT WAS TH' LEAST WE COULD DO AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO SAVE OLE LIVES!
THOSE ARE TH' TWO SWELLEST GIRLS IN TH' WORLD--HOW AM I EVER GONNA TELL WHICH I LOVE TH' MOST---

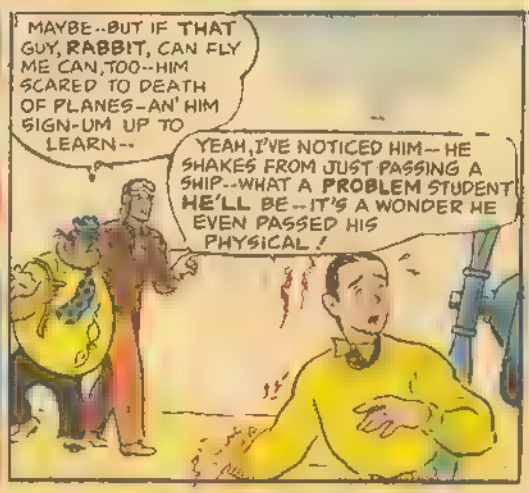

WHY WASN'T I TWINS?
A FEW DAYS AGO JACK RAN INTO DOWNWIND AT THE HOSPITAL - DOWNWIND HAS RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM AN ACCIDENT.
FAT STUFF, YOU OL' AIR WHEEL! HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
DOWNWIND FLEW-UM ME UP TO SEE YOU!
SEE Y'LATER BOYS - I'VE SOME DATES WITH SOME NURSES CUTEST LI'L DE-ICERS Y'EVER SAW!
SAY, JACK, WHAT HAPPEN TO DOWNWIND FACE? IT LOOK-UM LIKE HIM MAKE-UM LANDING FACE FIRST!
HE DIDN'T CRASH! REMEMBER ALL TH' DE-ICERS THAT HE HAD JILTED--WELL, SOME OF 'EM CAUGHT HIM!
HIM FACE IS NO PRETTY NOW - BUT GRLS STILL CRAZY ABOUT HIM! ME NO UNDER-STAND!?
IT MUST BE HIS PERSONALITY --HIS FACE LOOKS LIKE A WAR MAP BUT REMEMBER, SOME OF OUR HOMELIEST MEN MARRY TH' PRETTIEST GIRLS!
THAT RIGHT--WOO WOO IS PRETTY AN' HER MARRY-UM ME-- AN' ME SURE NO BEAUTY PARADE--SAY, HOW-UM ARE YOUR GIRLS?
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MARY AN' DIXIE--SAY--HERE COMES DIXIE WITH A NURSE NOW!
OKAY, DIXIE - HERE'S JACK'S ROOM!
THANKS, NURSE!
I'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOU, DIXIE!
JUST HEAD ME FOR JACK'S CHAIR, NURSE!
?
?

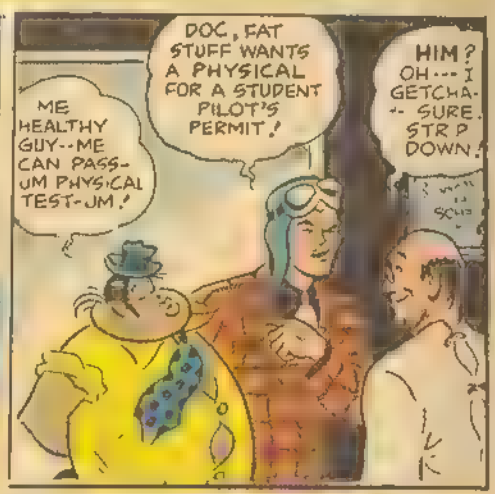
A FEW MINUTES LATER MARY ENTERS AND --
?
?
NOW WHY DID THOSE GIRLS COME IN HERE AND KISS ME LIKE THAT ? YOU'D THINK THEY NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE ME AGAIN!
EACH ONE MAYBE THINK-UM YOU LOVE OTHER ONE MOST--- MAYBE BOTH THINK-UM THEY HAVE LOSE YOU--
--WHERE ME COME-UM FROM, GIRLS KILL-UM SELF WHEN THEY LOSE-UM MAN!
!!
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT--A NURSE BRINGS DIXIE TO MY DOOR--- --DIXIE KISSES ME AND WALKS OUT WITHOUT A WORD..
--THEN IN A FEW MINUTES MARY WALKS IN- KISSES ME AND BREEZES OUT WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A HOW-DO-YOU-DO ?!
BAFFLIN', MISTER WATSON, BAFFLIN'---I'LL STROLL DOWN TO TH' NURSES' HOME AND SEE IF I CAN DO A LITTLE CASUAL SHERLOCKING!
THEY BOTH HAD SUCH A STRANGE LOOK ON THEIR FACES-- NO TELLIN' WHAT THEY MIGHT DO-- NURSE! BRING MY CLOTHES!
HEY, JACK--MARY AND DIXIE HAVE BOTH DISAPPEARED !!
TH' NURSES DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHEN DIXIE LEFT--BUT THEY SAW MARY LEAVE, ALONE- HERE'S MARY'S ROOM!
LOOK -- A NOTE!
READ IT!
"JACK, DEAR--I LOVE YOU MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF-- --BUT I KNOW YOU COULD NEVER BE HAPPY WITH ME FOR THINKING OF DIXIE ---
--DIXIE WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE AND IT'S NO FAULT OF YOURS THAT YOUR LOVE FOR HER HAS RETURNED --YOU AND DIXIE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER-- GOOD-BYE FOREVER-- MARY."
THIS NOTE WAS IN DIXIE'S ROOM!
"JACK DARLING- I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART-- --ALL I'VE EVER DONE IS CAUSE YOU TROUBLE--AND NOW I'VE COME BETWEEN YOU AND MARY--
--BUT I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY ANY LONGER--YOU AND MARY WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER--GOOD-BYE FOREVER--- DIXIE."

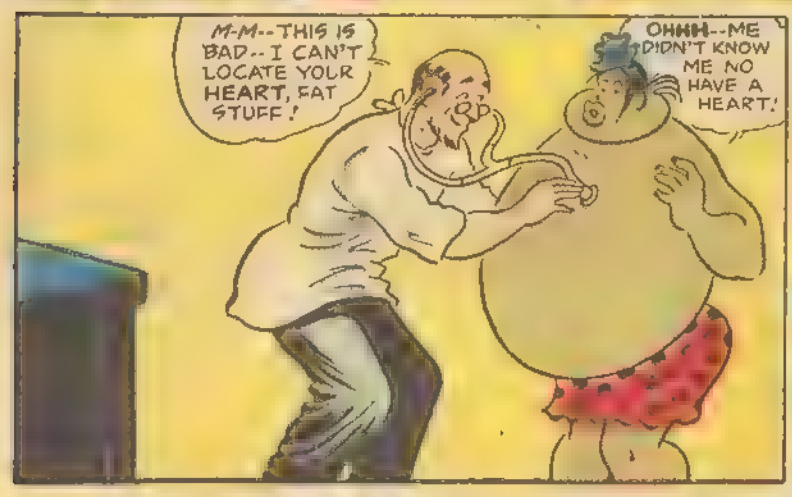
--DIXIE--- MARY--WHERE COULD THEY BE ?
IT'S BEYOND ME -- WE'VE CHECKED WITH TH' POLICE AND TH' BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS!
I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU, JACK--BUT YOU MUST STOP WORRYING BEFORE YOUR MIND DOES A SNAP ROLL -- WHAT YOU NEED IS TO GET BACK TO WORK!
HARD WORK IS TH' BEST MEDICINE FOR A BROKEN HEART, JACK!
WHAT WORK? WE'VE BOTH BEEN AWAY SO MUCH, OUR FLYIN' SCHOOL IS SHOT T'BLAZES!
I DOUBT IF WE COULD ROUND UP ENOUGH STUDENTS TO PAY HANGAR RENT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK--- HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS AUTHORITY HAS A PROGRAM FOR TRAINING TEN THOUSAND PILOTS A YEAR!
MOST OF THE C A A CONTRACTS WERE LET WHEN THE COLLEGES OPENED THIS FALL!
SURE-- BUT TH' PILOTS THAT WERE TO TRAIN JERK-WATER COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE SO NEGLIGENT--
--THAT THE C A A REVOKED THEIR CONTRACT--AND WE CAN GET THAT CONTRACT IF WE SNAP INTO IT--- FIRST, WE'LL SEE TH' DEAN!
SO YOU ARE GONNA LEARN TO FLY, TOO! HOW'D YOU EVER PASS YOUR PHYSICAL TEST, RABBIT?
I--I'M JUST AS HEALTHY AS YOU GUYS ARE-
THAT WASN'T YOUR STORY WHEN YOU ALIBIED OUTTA FOOTBALL ONE SCRIMMAGE, AN' YOU SAID YOU HAD HEART TROUBLE!
YOU WERE AFRAID -JUST PLAIN YELLOW! HOW DO YOU EVER EXPECT TO BE A PILOT, LAVENDER PANTS!?
LISTEN, FELLOWS-- LEAVE ME ALONE--I-- -I- DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!!
TH' DEAN SAYS WE CAN HAVE HIS QUOTA OF STUDENT PILOTS IF WE MEET THE C.A.A. REQUIREMENTS--- --FIRST, IS OUR AIRPORT WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE COLLEGE?
I'LL MAKE A CHECK RUN, JACK'
LATER
HELLO, JACK--THIS IS DOWN-WIND IT LOOKS BAD-- IT WAS THIRTEEN MILES TO TH' SCHOOL--
WAIT--THERE'S A PROVISION-- TH' LAW READS TEN MILES OR THIRTY MINUTES LEGAL DRIVING TIME -CLOCK TH' TRIP BACK!
LATER
MY GOSH, JACK--IT TOOK ME AN' HOUR AND FIVE MINUTES TO GET HERE!
THAT'S ODD! IT SHOULDN'T TAKE OVER TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES AT TH' MOST--WAIT-- WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR CAR?
--AND THIS TIME, SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES YOU TO MAKE TH' TRIP WITHOUT A CO-ED IN TH' CAR!!
!!

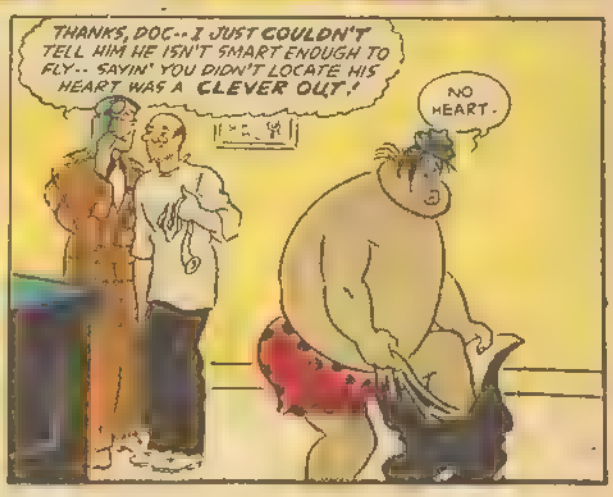
SMILIN' JACK

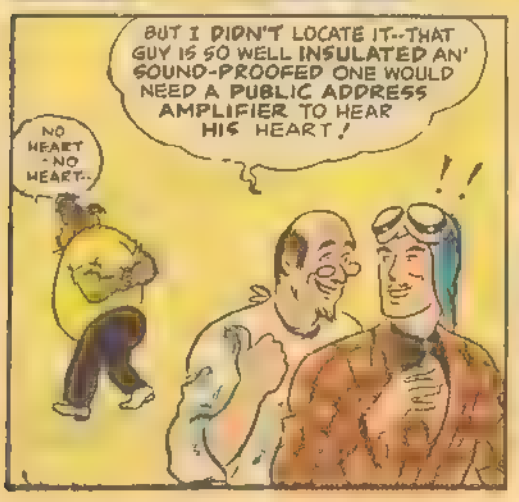

ME THINK ME LET-UM GOV-UM-MENT TEACH-UM ME TO FLY, TOO!
YOU? WOULDN'T YOU BE AFRAID TO BE ALONE IN A PLANE?

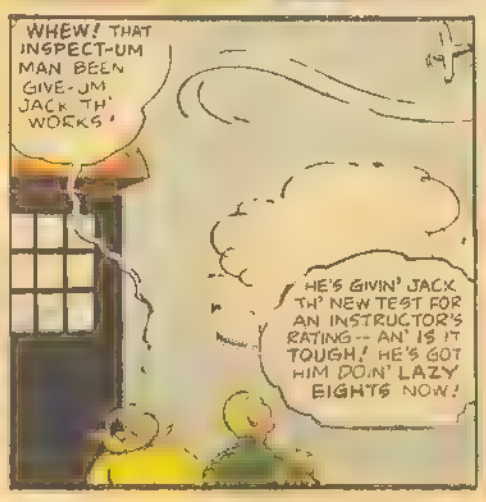

MAYBE--BUT IF THAT GUY, RABBIT, CAN FLY ME CAN, TOO--HIM SCARED TO DEATH OF PLANES--AN' HIM SIGN-UM UP TO LEARN--
YEAH, I'VE NOTICED HIM--HE SHAKES FROM JUST PASSING A SHIP--WHAT A PROBLEM STUDENT HE'LL BE--IT'S A WONDER HE EVEN PASSED HIS PHYSICAL!


DOC, FAT STUFF WANTS A PHYSICAL FOR A STUDENT PILOT'S PERMIT!
HIM? OH--- I GETCHA-- SURE. STRP DOWN.
ME HEALTHY GUY--ME CAN PASS-UM PHYSICAL TEST-UM!


M-M--THIS IS BAD--I CAN'T LOCATE YOUR HEART, FAT STUFF!
OHHH--ME DIDN'T KNOW ME NO HAVE A HEART!


THANKS, DOC--I JUST COULDN'T TELL HIM HE ISN'T SMART ENOUGH TO FLY--SAYIN' YOU DIDN'T LOCATE HIS HEART WAS A CLEVER OUT!
NO HEART.


BUT I DIDN'T LOCATE IT--THAT GUY IS SO WELL INSULATED AN' SOUND-PROOFED ONE WOULD NEED A PUBLIC ADDRESS AMPLIFIER TO HEAR HIS HEART!
NO HEART - NO HEART--
!!


WHEW! THAT INSPECT-UM MAN BEEN GIVE-UM JACK TH' WORKS!
HE'S GIVIN' JACK TH' NEW TEST FOR AN INSTRUCTOR'S RATING--AN' IS IT TOUGH! HE'S GOT HIM DOIN' LAZY EIGHTS NOW!

WHAT'RE LAZY EIGHTS? KIND OF FLY-UM LAZY PILOTS DO?
NO--THEY'RE JUST ABOUT TH' HARDEST OF ALL MANEUVERS--IT'S DESCRIBING A FIGURE EIGHT WITH TH' NOSE OF TH' SHIP IN AN OBLIQUE PLANE--YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND TH' DETAILS..

--BUT THEY REQUIRE CONTINUOUS CO-ORDINATION-- --PERFECT FLYIN' TECHNIQUE--- YOU MUST FLY INSTINCTIVELY --BY FEEL--IN OTHER WORDS, YOU FLY ENTIRELY BY TH' SEAT OF YOUR PANTS!
HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN--WE PASSED OUR TESTS.. AND WE GOT THE CONTRACT TO TEACH JERKWATER COLLEGE'S QUOTA OF FORTY STUDENTS!
THE C A A REQUIRES ONE PLANE AND ONE INSTRUCTOR FOR EACH TEN STUDENTS--SO I HIRED TWO MORE PILOTS AND ORDERED TWO MORE PLANES--
--AND THE GOVERNMENT IS PAYING US $290 FOR EACH STUDENT TRAINED FOR A PRIVATE LICENSE!
SAY, DOWNWIND, WHY TH' "FLAPS DOWN AN' NO PLACE TO LAND" LOOK--WHY SO SAD?
I JUST FOUND OUT THAT OUT OF ALL TH' 10,000 STUDENTS TO BE TRAINED, ONLY THREE PERCENT ARE GIRLS!!
WE'LL SOON BE TRAINING IN THOSE SHIPS--- - I'M JUST ITCHING TO FLY TH' PANTS OFF ONE OF THOSE BABIES!
IT'LL BE TH' OTHER WAY AROUND WITH RABBIT-- TH' SHIP WILL FLY TH' PANTS OFF HIM!
RABBIT, YOU'LL FAINT BEFORE YOU EVER GET OFF TH' GROUND --I'LL BET YOU HAVEN'T TH' NERVE TO EVEN GET IN A SHIP!
IS THAT SO... WELL, WATCH ME!
PSS-T-- TH' IGNITION ISN'T ON--LET'S SWING TH' PROP ONCE WHILE RABBIT IS INSIDE---
HEY! STOP! DON'T DO THAT-- --IT MIGHT START!!
HO-HO-HO! AND YELLOW CUP CAKE THINKS HE'S GONNA BE A PILOT!!
WELL, STUDENTS, NOW THAT WE HAVE FAMILIARIZED YOU WITH THE PARTS AND CONTROLS OF A PLANE, YOU ARE ABOUT TO ACTUALLY...
- PUT INTO PRACTICE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU'RE LEARNING IN THE SEVENTY-TWO HOUR GROUND COURSE YOU'RE TAKING AT COLLEGE..!

REMEMBER THIS-- --YOU'LL ALL MAKE MISTAKES- AND OUR JOB IS TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T REPEAT 'EM- FLYING IS AS SAFE AS YOU MAKE IT!
DON'T BE DISCOURAGED IF YOU'RE SLOW AND A LITTLE NERVOUS AT FIRST-- --YOU'LL SOON GET OVER IT.
A LITTLE NERVOUS--WHEW! I FEEL SORRY FOR TH' POOR INSTRUCTOR THAT GETS RABBIT!!
POOR SMILIN' JACK--HE DREW RABBIT-- AND RABBIT'S SHAKIN' LIKE A "TIN-GOOSE" WITH A BROKEN PROP!
THEY'RE OFF!
OH-OH--SUMPIN'S WRONG--THEY ONLY GOT A HUNDRED FEET OFF TH' GROUND AND THEY'RE TURNING TO LAND!!
WHAT'S WRONG, JACK?
RABBIT'S STOMACH HAD A FASTER RATE OF CLIMB THAN TH' PLANE!
RABBIT I'VE GIVEN YOU SEVERAL HOURS AIR-WORK AN' STILL YOU WON'T LOOSEN UP--JUST USE ONE HAND LIGHTLY!
I I I'M TRYIN' TO EASE UP, MISTER JACK
THERE--THAT'S BETTER-- --A NICE GLIDE--NOW START LEVELING OFF FOR A LANDING---- -- BACK--BACK EASY...
NO! DON'T YANK TH' STICK -- TURN LOOSE! I'LL TAKE IT!!
LATER
JACK, THAT RABBIT WILL NEVER BE A PILOT WASH HIM OUT BEFORE HE KILLS YOU BOTH!
HE'S SURE NO PRIZE- BUT I HATE TO WASH OUT ANY KID TILL I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE HE'S HOPELESS!
YOU'RE JUS ASKIN FOR IT JACK BUT IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
RABBIT, RELAX! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.. --NOW TAKE TH' CONTROLS AGAIN!
Y-YES, SIR--I'M N-N-NOT AFRAID!

OH, MISTER JACK--SUMPIN'S WRONG-- TH' WINGS ARE SHAKIN' OFF !!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH TH' WINGS, RABBIT--IT'S JUST YOU SHAKIN' TH' CONTROLS!
LOOK! THERE'S JACK COMING BACK WITH RABBIT!
RABBIT 'S SCARED TO DEATH OF PLANES --WHY IS HE TAKING UP FLYIN'?
THAT, LITTLE DE-ICERS IS ONE EVEN I CAN'T FIGURE OUT! RABBIT IS A STRANGE CASE!
AFTER JACK LANDED--
HEY, JACK!
WHAT ARE YOU SO REVVED UP ABOUT, FAT STUFF?
WHAT!! WELL, SLAP ME DOWN WITH A WING FLAP! CONGRATULATIONS!
HEY, DOWNWIND!!
WHAT'S UP, BLIMP BLASTER?
WHAT! WELL, CLIP ME WITH A CLIPPER! CONGRATULATIONS!!
FAT STUFF WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
HO-HO-- YOU SMART WIFE- BUT YOU NO CAN KEEP-UM SECRET FROM YOUR HUSBAND --- ME KNOW-
YOU KNOW WHAT?
ME NOT SO DUMB SOMETIME -- ME SEE YOU KN T-UM LITTLE GARMENT---

OH, THIS! WHY, S. LY I'M KNITTING A SWEATER FOR THIS POOR LITTLE FEATHERLESS CHICKEN!
DON'T HOLD TH STICK L KE YOU WERE TRYNG TO STRANGLE IT... --LOOSEN UP -YOU'LL NEVER GET TH FEEL OF FLYING, RABBIT!
NOW TRY ANOTHER R GHT BANK --EASY...
--NO--YOU'RE PUSHIN' OPPOSITE RUDDER! YOU'RE ALL MIXED UP---
YOU'VE THROWN IT INTO A SPIN ---TURN LOOSE THOSE CONTROLS!
TURN LOOSE!
--AN' MOST PILOTS SAY IT'S A LOTTA POPPY-COCK ABOUT A STUDENT FREEZING TH' STICK--WHEW!
RABBIT, I'VE GIVEN YOU HOURS OF INSTRUCTION-- I'VE TRIED TO BE PATIENT--
DON'T BE SORE, MISTER JACK--I -I - --WON'T DO IT AGAIN----
I'LL SAY, YOU WON'T! YOU'LL NEVER GET TH' CHANCE--YOU'RE THROUGH!!
I HATE TO TE L YOU TH S, RABB T, B T YO J ST HAVEN T GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A PILOT!
MISTER JACK, DON'T WASH ME OUT GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE!
I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT--YOU SEEM TO BE A PERFECTLY NORMAL KID UNTIL YOU GET IN A PLANE--THEN YOU GO COMPLETLY HAYWIRE!
YOU RE SO NERVOUS YOU'D KILL YOUR- SELF BEFORE YOU HAD TEN HOURS SOLO--I NEVER SAW ANYBODY SO AFRA D OF PLANES!
I'M SCARED TO DEATH OF PLANES. I'M AFRAID OF EVERYTHING!

YOU SEE, MASTER JACK--ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN YELLOW --A BABY THAT HID BEHIND MAMA'S APRON---
--I'M AFRAID OF LIGHTNING--I'M AFRAID OF TH DARK-- I CAN'T STAY ALONE IN A HOUSE FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT GETTING PANICKY--
THEN WHAT IN BLAZES EVER MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A PILOT!?
BECAUSE-- --AIRPLANES FRIGHTEN ME MOST!!
--IF I'M IN AN AUTO THAT GOES OVER FORTY MILES AN HOUR, I'M SCREAMING MY HEAD OFF--AND WHEN I GET IN A PLANE MY HEART STARTS BEATING LIKE A TRIP HAMMER---
--AND SINCE FLYING IS MY BIGGEST FEAR --I--I FEEL THAT IF I CAN GET OVER THAT FRIGHT- IT'LL HELP ME CONQUER MY OTHER FEARS!
WELL, RABBIT, I MUST SAY--YOU ARE TH' BRAVEST COWARD I EVER MET!!
WHERE'S THAT YELLOW LIVERED PUNK RABBIT? I HAVE A PRESENT FOR HIM!
I DON'T SEE WHY YOU WANT TO GIVE THAT MILK-SOP ANYTHING, STRUT?
THERE'S RABBIT NOW-- HEY, LAVENDER PANTS COME HERE!!
RABBIT, BEFORE WE GO HOME FOR XMAS, WE WANT TO GIVE YOU A PRESENT'
WELL- GEE - THANKS, FELLOWS -BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL DOWN ON ME?
AW, NO! WE'VE KIDDED YOU A LITTLE, BUT WE DIDN'T MEAN IT---WE WANT TO HELP YOU!
YES, WE WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING THAT A PILOT LIKE YOU SHOULD HAVE--CLOSE YOUR EYES OPEN YOUR HAND!
GEE- T-THIS IS SWELL OF YOU, FELLOWS
THERE, YOU BIG SISSY- SEE IF YOU CAN FLY THAT WITHOUT FREEZING TH' CONTROLS!!
"AHH HAH!"
HEY! LOOK AT THAT STUDENT, STRUT, MAKING A PYLON TURN ON A TAKE-OFF!!
WHEW! AND W TH ONLY THREE HOURS SOLO!
SO, MISTER STRUT! WE HAVE A RACING PILOT IN OUR MIDST!!
I KNEW YOU'D LIKE THAT PYLON TURN, JACK--I THINK I'LL ENTER TH' ALL-AMERICAN AIR MANEUVERS
S THAT SO? WELL, GET THIS, MISTER WISE GUY--A FEW MORE FOOL STUNTS LIKE THAT AN' YOU'LL ENTER A MORGUE!
Y-YES, SIR-
JACK THINKS STUDENTS ARE TROUBLE. BUT THEY ARE A PICNIC COMPARED TO WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN
AT THIS INSTANT, A HAND IS WRITING MESSAGES TO A GROUP OF STRANGE PERSONS ---

...and you are hereby commanded to be present at my secret apartment
The Mongoose
DOWNWIND, IF YOU'RE GONNA PLAY SANTA CLAUS IN TAMPA--- HURRY UP!
OKAY--BUT FIRST, TELL ME--WHY DON'T YOU FIRE THAT GUY, RABBIT, OUTTA FLYIN' SCHOOL-- I NEVER SAW SUCH A COWARD!
HE MAY BE A COWARD, BUT HE HAS MORE COURAGE THAN BOTH OF US--HE'S ACTUALLY FORCING HIMSELF TO FLY!
WHAT!
HE SAYS HE'S MORE AFRAID OF FLYING THAN ANYTHING ELSE--AND FIGURES THAT IF HE CAN CONQUER THAT BUGABOO IT'LL HELP HIM OVERCOME HIS OTHER FEARS!
WELL, I'LL BE... I GUESS I OWE RABBIT AN APOLOGY!
YEAH--AN' YOU'LL OWE TWO HUNDRED KIDS AN APOLOGY IF YOU DON'T STEP ON IT!
OKAY..YOU GAS TH' SHIP WHILE I GET INTO THIS NORTH POLE TUXEDO AND PAD UP WITH PILLOWS!
YOO HOO, DOWNWIND --- WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY!
SORRY, LI'L DE-ICERS--I'VE PROMISED TO BE SANTA AT A KIDDIE CLUB
BUT MISS DE-ICER FROM MIAMI WILL BE AT OUR PARTY AND MISS DE-ICER FROM ATLANTA!
YES, AND OTHER DE-ICERS FROM SAN FRANCISCO, AKRON, ELMIRA, PHILADELPHIA, OKLAHOMA CITY---
WE'VE INVITED DE-ICERS FROM ALL OVER DOWNWIND!
WOW! A CONVENTION OF DE-ICERS.. BUT WHO COULD I GET TO TAKE MY PLACE?

HOW ABOUT JACK, DOWNWIND? HE'D MAKE A GOOD SANTA!
NO, HE'S ON TH' PROGRAM --HE'S GONNA WHISTLE A BIRD ACT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER--
C'MON, DOWNWIND-- PLANE'S READY --SAY-- YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO OVER-DO THIS SANTA COSTUME IDEA!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS-- --TRY TO LOOK SOMEWHAT NATURAL-- TAKE OUT AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE PILLOWS, DOWNWIND!!
OOWOOF!
OW! ME NOT DOWNWIND--AND THIS ARE NO PILLOW!!
CHRISTMAS--AN' STILL NO WORD FROM EITHER MARY OR DIXIE--BUT I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T EVEN EXPECT TO HEAR, SINCE EACH LEFT THINKING I WAS GOING TO MARRY THE OTHER-
WELL, WHEREVER THEY ARE I HOPE THEY HAVE THE MERRIEST CHRISTMAS THEY EVER HAD--AND THAT GOES FOR EVERYBODY!
L TYLE CHILLUMS FAT STUCK WANT TO G--E-UM YOU CHRIS'UMS PRESENT --STAND STILL WHILE ME BLOW-UM OUT BREATH-
--NOW ME TAKE-UM IN DEEP BREATH--
--AND THROW-UM OUT CHEST--AND POP-UM OFF ALL BUTTONS FOR YOU ----MERRY-UM CHRIS'UMS!!
AT A MILITARY PLANE FACTORY AN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE--
GULP! A SECRET MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED BY... "THE MONGOOSE"!
A CHEMIST FOR A RESEARCH COMPANY RECEIVES A SIMILAR NOTE-
GULP... IT'S FROM "THE MONGOOSE"!!
IN THE OFFICE OF A GAMBLING CASINO--
DOYE, WHAT IS IT?
O-OH, LONGDRINK-- --IT'S A SUMMONS F-F-- FROM "THE MONGOOSE"!!

SMILIN' JACK

Reg U S Pat Off
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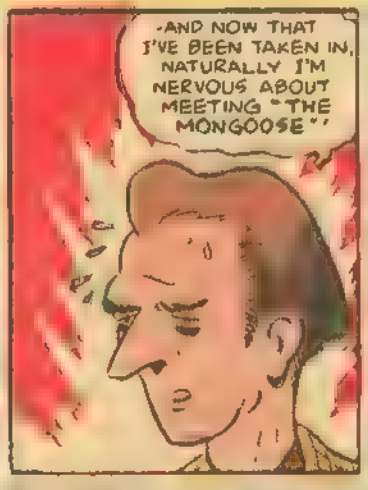
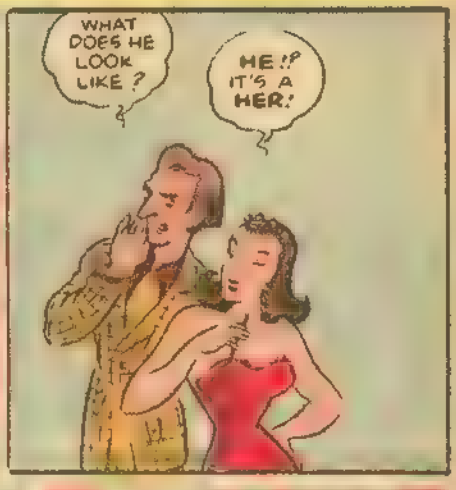
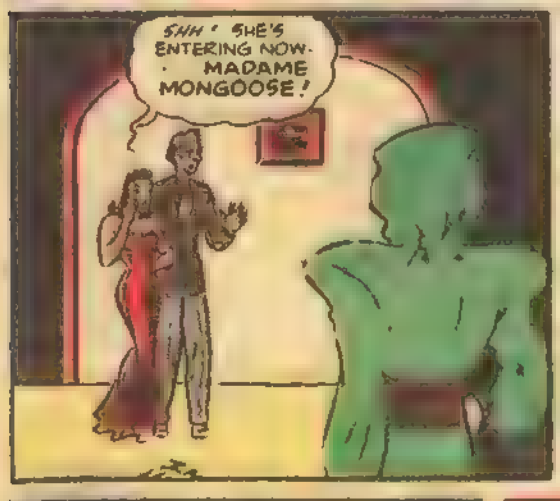
WHILE STUDENT PILOTS ARE GRAYING JACK'S HAIR WE FLASH TO A SUMPTUOUS APARTMENT IN A BIG CITY.
DON'T BE NERVOUS LONGDRINK THERE'S NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT IF YOU DO AS YOU ARE TOLD.
SURE, DOVE, BUT FOR YEARS I'VE HEARD OF THE COLD-BLOODED EXPLOITS OF YOUR SUPERIOR..







-INFORMATION THAT I POSSESS ABOUT CERTAIN NARCOTIC DEALINGS WOULD MAKE CERTAIN F B I MEN VERY HAPPY!
NO, NO, MADAME MONGOOSE -- YOUR EVERY WISH IS LAW WITH ME!!

AND MY AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER -- HOW A CERTAIN COMMITTEE WOULD RELISH A BIT OF NEWS ABOUT HOW VALUABLE MILITARY SECRETS LEAK OUT!
THAT'S ENOUGH, MADAME I AM YOUR SLAVE
4-28 JC '40

AND ON THE "AMONG THOSE MISSING" ROSTER AT DEVIL'S ISLAND THE NAME MUSCLE-BOUND
NO, MADAME ANYTHIN YOU SAY NEVER BACK TO DAT INFERNO

THAT'S AN ANNUAL PRIVATE PLANE CAVALCADE ON IT'S WAY TO TH' ALL-AMERICAN AIR MANEUVERS AT MIAMI--- WHAT A SIGHT!
OH!
AS JACK ADMIRES THIS AWE-INSPIRING PANORAMA OF AVIATION, LITTLE DOES HE DREAM OF THE INCREDIBLE PLOT THAT IS BEING FORMULATED AGAINST PILOTS..
MADAME MONGOOSE, WE AGREE WITH YOU--AMERICA IS PRODUCING TOO MANY PILOTS AND---
--YOUR IDEA TO BREAK TH' MORALE OF YOUNG PILOTS BY STRIKING AT THE INSTRUCTORS IS UNIQUE--BUT ISN'T IT A BIT FANTASTIC?
NO! WHEN STUDENTS SEE THEIR INSTRUCTORS CRASH, THEIR REACTION WILL BE THAT IF EXPERIENCED PILOTS CRACK UP, WHAT CHANCE HAVE THEY TO LIVE IF THEY FLY!
MY PLAN IS LOGICAL--- AND POSSIBLE, IF EACH OF YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS!
WE WILL, MADAME-- BUT WHO IS FINANCING THIS WILD SCHEME--IS IT SOME INDUSTRY COMPETITIVE TO AVIATION?
IS IT SOME FOREIGN POWER--OR IS IT JUST A FANTASTIC PERSONAL PHOBIA?
LONGDRINK, I REALIZE THIS IS YOUR FIRST JOB WITH ME--PERHAPS YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ME!?
FRANKLY, I DO NOT!
THEN I WILL HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND!
CRACK!
NEVER QUESTION MADAME MONGOOSE ABOUT ANYTHING!!
JACK MOSLEY
COLLEAGUES, BEFORE WE ADJOURN, THERE IS ONE LITTLE ITEM OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS..
MOST OF YOU WERE WITH ME ON MY LAST VENTURE, BUT AS YOU RECALL, IT ALMOST PROVED DISASTROUS TO ALL OF US!
WHY? BECAUSE ONE OF MY TRUSTED AIDS TURNED TRAITOR! EVENTUALLY, MY INTELLIGENCE AGENTS LEARNED WHO THE TRAITOR WAS---

--THAT PERSON IS IN THIS ROOM !!
WHY, MY DOVE, DO YOU LOOK SO TERRIFIED--YOU SURELY ARE NOT THE TRAITOR MADAME SPEAKS OF ?
NO--BUT STEEL YOURSELF--YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE OF MADAME MONGOOSE'S EXECUTIONS, LONGDRINK !
SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM IS GOING TO BE TRAPPED !
NOW ? HOW CAN YOU TELL ?
THE SIGN--THE SIGN !
WHAT SIGN ?
THERE ! LOOK !" THE MONGOOSE" ALWAYS CHANGES HER HAIR-DO WHEN SHE'S GOING TO HAVE HER REVENGE
--- THE TRAITOR IS--- MY CHEMIST, DRIBBLE !
NO ! NO ! YOU'RE NOT GONNA KILL ME !"
EASY, DRIBBLE-PUSS !
--W-WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH ME ?--- --PLEASE DON'T T-T-TORTURE ME--
--I'VE WITNESSED SOME OF YOUR VARIED EXECUTIONS. --EACH ONE MORE HORRIBLE THAN THE LAST--- --PLEASE--
SILENCE, FOOL--I HAVEN'T DECIDED UPON YOUR FATE YET LOCK HIM UP, MUSCLE-BOUND !
HOW STRANGE ! NEVER BEFORE HAS MADAME BEEN SEEN TO HESITATE AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH AN ENEMY !
NO, HER VICIOUS WIT IS ALWAYS READY TO WHIP OUT WITH TH' STING OF DEATH--SHE MUST BE SLIPPING
STOP WHISPERING, SLAVES--TOMORROW YOU SHALL SEE WHETHER I'M SLIPPING OR NOT !!
--AM I NOT OVER MY NEW YEAR HANG-OVER YET--OR AM I REALLY SLIPPING ? MY SUCCESS DEPENDS UPON KEEPING MY SUBJECTS IN DEADLY FEAR OF ME !
THAT I HAVE ALWAYS DONE BY DEALING OUT UNIQUE REVENGE UPON ENEMIES AND TRAITORS. I CAN'T LET DOWN NOW !!
I MUST THINK OF A NEW WAY TO IMPRESS MY MENIALS. --I WILL GET AN IDEA
NARCISSUS SERVE MY DINNER IN BED--NOW !
YESSUM, MADAME MONGOOSE, WHAT YOU-ALL LIKE SOME NICE SALAD -- AN'--
NO--AN ORDER OF DILL PICKLES -PINT OF ICE CREAM AND A KIPPERED HERRING !
NO, MADAME, NOT THAT JUS' BEFO' BED. YOU'LL HAVE AWFUL NIGHT-MARES YOU'LL DREAM OB KILLIN'S - HORRIBLE EXECUTIONS !!
YOU ARE TELLING ME !

MUSCLEBOUND, BRING DRIBBLE! I'M READY TO DISPOSE OF THAT TRAITOR NOW-- --GET MY CAR!
YES, MADAME MONGOOSE!
ALL OF YOU COME WITH ME--THIS IS GOING TO BE A PUBLIC EXECUTION --AT LEAST, PUBLIC AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED!
YES, MADAME, WE UNDERSTAND --WE ARE YOUR PUBLIC!
DRIVE TO MY PRIVATE FLYING FIELD ON MY ESTATE--I PHONED MY MECHANIC TO HAVE MY SHIP READY!
OH I GET IT! YOU'RE GOING TO SHOVE DRIBBLE OUTTA DE PLANE!
SILENCE, FOOL! NOTHING SO COMMONPLACE AS THAT! YOU SHALL SOON SEE THAT MADAME MONGOOSE HAS NOT LOST HER COLORFUL TOUCH!!
LATER
JACK, LOOK AT THAT--A LIGHT PLANE DOING A SLOW ROLL ONLY FIFTY FEET OFF TH' GROUND!
THAT, STUDENTS, IS ONE REASON I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO TH' MIAMI AIR MANEUVERS--TO SHOW BEGINNERS WHAT NOT TO DO!
WOW! LOOK AT THOSE BABIES WHIP AROUND THOSE PYLONS!!
YES, BUT DON'T ANY OF YOU GET ANTS IN YOUR HELMETS AN' TRY STUNTS LIKE THAT TILL YOU'VE FLOWN PLENTY!
FLASHING FROM THE BRIGHTSIDE OF AVIATION, WE SEE--
NOW, MY TRAITOROUS DRIBBLE--YOU ARE ABOUT TO FEEL MY STING--BUT IT WILL BE A SPORTING CHANCE--SEE THOSE FIVE PARACHUTES---
--THE SHROUD LINES ON ONE 'CHUTE ARE CUT --CHOOSE ONE AND JUMP!!
WHILE JACK AND HIS STUDENTS ARE AT THE MIAMI AIR MANEUVERS, WE FLASH TO MADAME MONGOOSE, WHO HAS A SCHEME TO UNDERMINE THE MORALE OF AMERICAN STUDENT PILOTS--
JACK, Y'SAY THOSE "PEA-SHOOTERS" ARE DOIN' A RAT RACE?
RIGHT, RABBIT, THAT IS PLAYIN' FOLLOW TH' LEADER TH' HARD WAY!
PURSUIT SHIPS.
--BUT BEFORE SHE STARTS HER STEPS OF INSTRUCTION CRASHES SHE DOES A LITTLE PURGING WITHIN HER OWN RANKS-
DRIBBLE, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED ME AND SHOULD DIE WITHOUT MERCY. BUT I HAVE A SPORTING NATURE--LUCKY YOU!
SNAP IT UP, DRIBBLE! DA MADAME SAID FOR YOU TO CHOOSE ONE!
--BUT, MADAME MONGOOSE--YOU SAID YOU HAD CUT TH' SHROUD LINES ON ONE 'CHUTE - I MIGHT CHOOSE THAT ONE--THAT ISN'T A SPORTIN' CHANCE---
DRIBBLE, SOMETIMES MY TOLERANCE AND TENDER HEARTEDNESS AMAZE ME--

--I GIVE YOU FOUR TO ONE ODDS ON YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE AND STILL YOU CRY---- CHOOSE!!
ALL RIGHT, MADAME--I-- --I'LL--CHOOSE THIS--NO--- THIS ONE--
--NO--I'LL TAKE THIS ONE--OH--HOW CAN I TELL WHICH 'CHUTE HAS TH' SEVERED SHROUD LINES ??
YOU'LL SOON KNOW--- HEY! NO PEEKIN'!
SNAP IT, DRIBBLE-PUSS--DA MADAME GROWS IMPATIENT--- --AN' DAT'S BAD FOR HER NOIVES!
NO! NO! I MAY BE WEARING TH' FATAL 'CHUTE--I WON'T JUMP!
SO HE WON'T JUMP, EH? HOLD THE WHEEL, LONGDRINK!
H-7-
NOW PULL TH' RING, DRIBBLE, AND YOU'LL LEARN IF THAT PARACHUTE IS AN ANGEL'S KIMONO OR A SHROUD OF DEATH!!
DRIBBLE CHOSE A PARACHUTE AND JUMPED-- - BUT---
SWISH
WHAM!
MADAME MONGOOSE, DID THAT BLOW DAMAGE THE TAIL CONTROLS?!
NO SEEM TO BE WORKING OKAY-- --BUT LOOK--IT MUST HAVE KNOCKED DRIBBLE OUT--- HE HASN'T PULLED TH' RIP-CORD!
--BUT DRIBBLE ISN'T OUT - HE PULLS TH' RIP-CORD--
IT'S OPENING--- BUT WILL IT HOLD--DID I CHOOSE TH' 'CHUTE W TH
EEEOOW

SMILIN' JACK

by ZACK MOSLEY

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off
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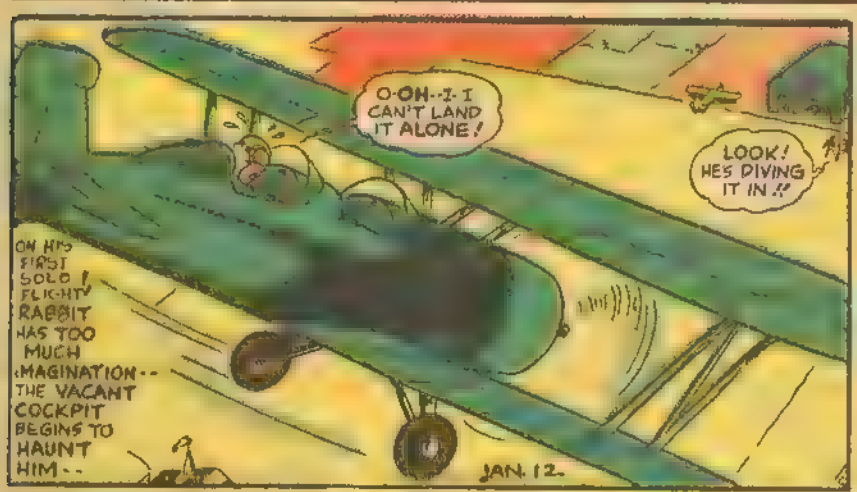
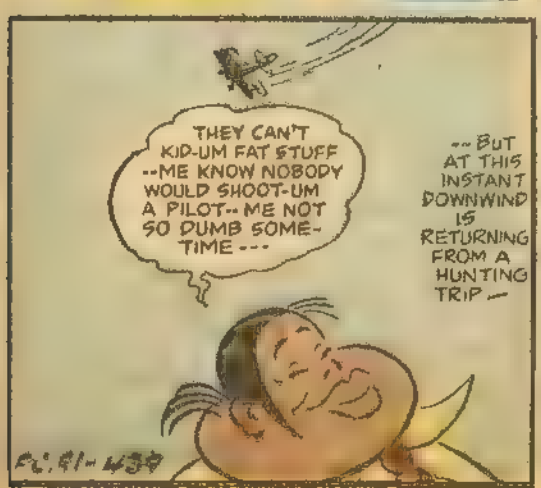
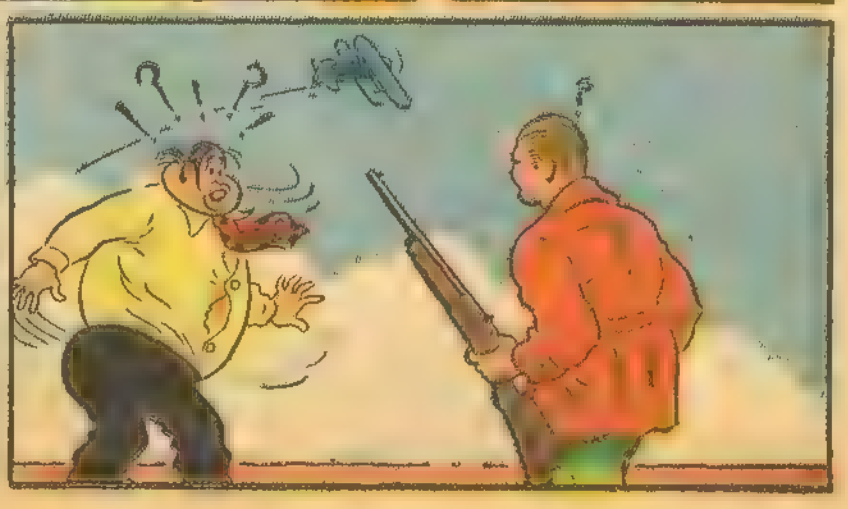

O-OH--I-I CAN'T LAND IT ALONE!
LOOK! HE'S DIVING IT IN!!
ON HIS FIRST SOLO FLIGHT RABBIT HAS TOO MUCH IMAGINATION-- THE VACANT COCKPIT BEGINS TO HAUNT HIM--
JAN. 12.

LOOK! RABBIT QUIT TRY-UM TO LAND-- HIM TOO AFRAID TO LAND-- HOW HIM GONNA GET DOWN!?
WHY, WHEN A PILOT GETS LIKE THAT, WE HAFTA SHOOT HIM DOWN!


THEY CAN'T KID-UM FAT STUFF --ME KNOW NOBODY WOULD SHOOT-UM A PILOT-- ME NOT SO DUMB SOME-TIME---
-- BUT AT THIS INSTANT DOWNWIND IS RETURNING FROM A HUNTING TRIP—
FEB. 21-1939



FAT STUFF, WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE HOPP'N' AROUND AS IF YOU HAD HAD A TRANSFUS'ON FROM A JITTERBUG!
RABBIT HAVE GONE UP FOR HIM FIRST SOLO--- HIM GOT SCARED AND ALMOST CRACK UP EVERYTIME HIM TRY TO LAND---
HM AFRAID TO LAND! HOW HM GET DOWN?
OH, HE'LL COME DOWN ALL RIGHT--YOU CAN'T GET GAS OUTTA TH' MILKY WAY!
OH! THERE GOES MY LAST DROP OF GAS--I--I- I'VE GOTTA LAND NOW---
SPUT
SPUT
SPUT
SPUT
RABBIT GLIDES DOWN FOR AN APPROACH--BUT AS HE SEES THE GROUND GETTING NEARER--
OH--I--CAN'T--I CAN'T DO IT--I--I---I'LL KILL MYSELF----
OW! WHAT A LANDING!
I'VE SEEN LOTS WORSE!
CONGRATULATIONS, RABBIT--YOU D.D IT! YOU LANDED W.TH A DEAD MOTOR--- YOU'RE OKAY!"
BUT--- --BUT-- MISTER JACK--I-- I DIDN'T LAND IT!
WHAT? WELL, IF YOU D.DN'T WHO D.D? DON'T TRY TO TELL ME THERE'S "A LITTLE MAN THAT WASN'T THERE" IN TH' FRONT COCK-PIT!!
NO BUT I DIDN'T LAND IT-- BY TH' TIME I LEVELED OFF I WAS SO SCARED THAT.
I--I FAINTED AND TH' SHIP JJS' LANDED BY ITSELF!
OWAH!
HERE COMES MADAM MONGOOSE TO ASS'GN US TO OUR NEW TASKS!
THAT? MADAM MONGOOSE? WHY, I HARDLY RECOGNIZED HER--SAY, SHE LOOKS DIFFERENT EVERY TIME I SEE HER, DOVE!
SHE HAS A MANIA FOR CHANG'NG HER LOOKS AN' SHE'S A GENIUS AT MAKE-UP -NOT EVEN HER CLOSEST ASSOCIATES KNOW WHAT SHE REALLY LOOKS LIKE!
NO WONDER SHE HAS ELUDED TH' AUTHORITIES OF BOTH HEMISPHERES!
YES--IN SOME COUNTRIES SHE'S REFERRED TO AS "THE WOMAN WITH A THOUSAND FACES"!
SAY, DOVE, WHAT IS BEHIND MADAM MONGOOSE'S CRASH EXPERIMENT? SHE WON'T EXPLAIN!
WELL, LONGDRINK, SINCE AMERICA IS TRAINING SO MANY PILOTS, SHE BELIEVES THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT WOULD PAY PLENTY TO RETARD SUCH A PROGRAM!

HER THEORY IS THAT IF STUDENTS SEE INSTRUCTORS CRASH THEIR REACTION WILL BE THAT IF EXPERIENCED PILOTS CRASH WHAT CHANCE HAVE NOVICE PILOTS!?
I THINK SHE'S TRYING TO GET SOME COUNTRY TO SPONSOR HER FANTASTIC IDEA--BUT IF HER EXPERIMENT FAILS AND HER PLOT IS EXPOSED, IT'LL ENDANGER HER OTHER BUSINESS!
WHAT IS HER MAIN BUSINESS?
PROMOTING SABOTAGE IN ENGINE AN' PLANE FACTORIES FOR ANY COUNTRY THAT WILL MEET HER PRICE!
WELL, SHE'S A RUTHLESS FANATIC -- BUT AS LONG AS SHE PAYS TH' SALARIES SHE DOES WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN!?
MADAM MONGOOSE, I HAVE BEEN WATCHING THIS JACK PERSON -- HE OFTEN GOES UP AND DEMONSTRATES MANEUVERS FOR HIS CLASS!
DOES HE ALWAYS USE THE SAME SHIP?
YES, HE GENERALLY USES HIS BIPLANE FOR AEROBATICS!
GOOD! TONIGHT WE WILL SLIP INTO HIS HANGAR AND TAKE THE BOLTS OUT OF THE WING FITTINGS AND...
LATER
FILE THOSE BOLTS TILL THEY ARE THIN -- BUT MAKE THEM APPEAR WORN -- JUST IN CASE OF AN INVESTIGATION!
I GETCHA! THEY'LL HOLD TILL JACK GETS INTO TH' AIR -- --BUT---
--WHEN HE STARTS HIS AEROBATICS TH' EXTRA STRAIN FROM TH' MANEUVERS WILL SNAP TH' WEAKENED BOLTS AND...
CRACK! ANOTHER EAGLE SHEDS HIS WINGS!!
SG
WONDER WHERE THE OTHER INSTRUCTORS ARE?
DOWNWIND, H.M LATE THIS MORNING... --BUT HERE COME BILL, YOUR OTHER INSTRUCT-UM MAN!
BILL, I'M GOIN' UP AND DO A FEW SIMPLE STALLS, SLIPS, THREE SIXTIES, ETC--AND YOU EXPLAIN 'EM TO TH' STUDENTS AS I DO 'EM!
OKAY JACK! DEMONSTRATIN' MANEUVERS BEFORE YOU TEACH 'EM TO OUR FLITTERBUGS IS A SWELL IDEA!
SAY--- HOW COME JACK ISN'T WEARING A PARACHUTE?
EXPERIENCED PILOTS SELDOM WEAR PARACHUTES FOR SIMPLE MANEUVERS --THEY ONLY WEAR 'EM FOR STRENUOUS AEROBATICS!!
STUDENTS, WE WANT TO IMPRESS UPON YOU TH' VALUE OF A FEW SIMPLE MANEUVERS..SO LISTEN TO INSTRUCTOR BILL WHILE I'M UP!
I'LL TRY TO POINT OUT TH' IMPORTANCE OF EACH MANEUVER AS JACK DOES IT!

MEANTIME NOT FAR AWAY
WHAT A MAKE UP ART.ST! ONE DAY MADAME MONGOOSE LOOKS LIKE AN OL' BATTLE AXE AN' NEXT DAY LIKE A CLEOPATRA!
ON DIS TWO DAYS ARE IMPORTANT IN HER BUSINESS --SHE'S TH' "WOMAN WITH A THOUSAND FACES"!
COME, SLAVE! SOON I HOPE TO SHOW YOU SKEPTICS THE MERITS OF MY CRASH EXPERIMENT!
SMILIN' JACK'S BIPLANE IS BEING STARTED--IT'S TH' SHIP WE "WORKED" ON LAST NIGHT--TH' BOLTS WE FILED WILL HOLD THE WING FITTINGS TO THE FUSELAGE IN NORMAL FLIGHT--BUT----
THEY'LL NEVER STAND TH' STRAIN OF ANY MANEUVERS --THERE HE GOES!
BUT--SAY--WHAT IF THIS SMILIN' JACK PERSON HAS ON A PARACHUTE?
HE HASN'T--HE EVIDENTLY DOESN'T PLAN TO DO ANY STRENUOUS AEROBATICS--- --HE'S ONLY DOING A VERTICAL BANK--BUT EVEN THAT SHOULD EXERT ENOUGH STRAIN!
NOW HE'S DOING A WING-OVER AN' STILL NOTHING IS HAPPENING! YOU STUPID FOOLS--YOU DIDN'T FILE THE BOLTS ENOUGH!
--BUT, MADAME, WE HAD TO FILE THEM CAREFULLY SO THEY'D LOOK WORN AND AVERT ANY SUSPICION OF SABOTAGE--
LOOK!
??
FROM A HOUSE NEAR THE AIRPORT, "THE MONGOOSE" WATCHED JACK'S PLANE TAKE OFF AND--
HE JUST DID A WING OVER AND-- LOOK!
FLING TH' WING BOLTS DID TH' TRICK!
WELL, MISTER SMILIN' JACK, YOUR DEATH WILL BE A BOON TO MY PILOT PURGE PLAN AS WELL AS A SETTLEMENT OF AN OLD SCORE!!

JACK OH YOU!? ME JUST SAW YOU CRASH!
NOT ME--JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF TH' DEAN CALLED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOME OF TH' STUDENTS-- AND- AND BILL WENT UP IN MY PLACE!
JACK! JACK! W WAS BILL KILLED?!
YES POOR CHAP NEVER HAD A CHANCE WAS DEAD WHEN WE REACHED HIM!
OH! H-HOW AWFUL--I ALWAYS FELT FLYIN' WASN'T SAFE!
NO MORE FLYIN' FOR ME
STUDENTS! GET A HOLD ON YOURSELVES--IT'S A TERRIBLE BLOW TO ALL OF US -- BUT YOU MUSTN'T LET IT GET YOU!
YOU MAY THINK ME HARD AN' CRUEL FOR WHAT I M ABOUT TO DO IN TH' FACE OF THIS TRAGEDY.--BUT YOUR FUTURE COURAGE DEPENDS ON IT....
- EACH OF YOU MUST FLY AGAIN-- --NOW-- ROLL OUT OUR OTHER SHIPS!!
WELL, WHAT EFFECT DID THE INSTRUCTOR CRASH HAVE ON THE STUDENTS? I SUP'OSE MOST OF THEM WILL NEVER FLY AGAIN!?
NATURALLY THEY WERE SHAKEN--BUT EACH OF THEM WENT UP AND FLEW IN SPITE OF TH' TRAGEDY THEY HAD JUST WITNESSED!
MADAM MONGOOSE, TH' MORALE OF AMERICAN YOUTH S NOT AS EASILY SHAKEN AS YOU IMAGINED.
SILENCE, FOOL! I KNOW MY THEORY IS RIGHT---ANOTHER HORRIBLE CRASH RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS WILL PROVE IT!!
- ANOTHER THING IT WASN'T SMILIN' JACK THAT CRASHED!
IT WASN'T! WELL, IT WILL BE NEXT TIME! NOW JUST STAND THERE-- GET BUSY- GET ME A CARTON OF CHEWING GUM!!
MADAM HERE'S THE STUFF YOU ORDERED BUT HOW YOU INTEND TO WRECK A PLANE WIT' CHEWIN' GUM IS BEYOND ME!!
IT WOULD BE--LOOK-- HERE IS SOME OF MY OWN "SANDMAN" GUM!
"SAND-MAN" GUM?
YES, IT'S A SPECIAL GUM MADAM HAD MADE UP FOR JUST SUCH OCCASIONS--IT CONTAINS A SLEEPING POTION!
NOW WE WILL TAKE THE PACKAGES OF THIS STANDARD BRAND GUM-- AND CAREFULLY REMOVE THE WRAPPERS--

OH, I SEE! YOU'RE GONNA SUBSTITUTE YOUR "SANDMAN" GUM IN DE PLACE OF DAT REGULAR GUM!!
RIGHT--AND NOW WITH A LITTLE CLEAR WAX I SEAL UP THE PACKAGES SO ARTISTICALLY NO ONE WILL EVER NOTICE THEY'VE BEEN TAMPERED WITH!
BUT, MADAM MONGOOSE, I STILL DON'T SEE WOT EFFECT DAT SLEEP GUM CAN HAVE ON A PLANE??
NOT THE PLANE, STUPID! THIS GUM IS FOR SMILIN' JACK--A PILOT ASLEEP AT THE CONTROLS CAN BE MOST EMBARRASSING--NOT TO MENTION DISASTROUS!
WHAT A DISGUISE, MADAM MONGOOSE! I HOPE YOU HAVE NO TROUBLE SELLING SMILIN' JACK SOME OF YOUR SLEEPING PUT-ON GUM!
I WON'T
HEAR AM GOIN' AS "ASLEEP AT TH STICK" RIGHT NOW--PRACTICALLY ALL PILOTS CHEW GUM WHEN THEY FLY!
LATER
MISTER, COULD YOU USE A PENCIL OR SHOE LACES--OR CHEWING GUM? PLEASE BUY SOMETHING FROM AN OLD LADY..
I DON'T NEED ANY SHOE LACES --BUT I'LL TAKE A PACK OF GUM--- YOU CAN KEEP TH' CHANGE!
THANK YOU KINDLY. MAY TH ANGELS BE WITH YOU----
"AND THEY WILL".
--BUT I--I--I'D LIKE TO GO NOW!
OKAY, RABBIT CRAWL IN!
HERE HERE DON'T CLIMB SO STEEP, RABBIT!
YES, SIR, MISTER JACK--GUESS I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS!
HERE, HAVE A STICK OF GUM--IT'LL HELP RELAX YOU!
THANKS!
FAT STUFF! WHO CRASHED--WAS IT JACK?
NO, THAT WHAT EVERYBODY THOUGHT--BUT JUS' AS JACK WAS ABOUT TO TAKE-OFF SCHOOL MAN CAME TO TALK TO JACK AN BILL WENT UP IN JACK PLACE--BILL WAS KILL!

POOR BILL- HE WAS A GRAND GUY AN A SWELL FLYIN INSTRUCTOR MUST 'AVE BEEN A TERRIBLE BLOW TO H'S STUDENTS!
YES, POOR KIDS FEEL AWFUL- THEY SAY THEY NO FLY AGAIN--BUT JACK MAKE-UM EACH GO FLY RIGHT AWAY!
MADAME MONGOOSE, DO YOU SELL ANY OF TH' CHEWING GUM THAT IS DOPED WITH SLEEPING POTION?
I SOLD SMILIN' JACK A PACK JUST BEFORE HE TOOK OFF WITH A STUDENT--- THERE'LL SOON BE ANOTHER CRASH!
GOOD IF JACK HAD LET TH' KIDS BROOD OVER IT TOO LONG BEFORE FLYING AGAIN, THEY MIGHT HAVE LOST THEIR NERVE!
A SERIES OF CRASHES IS SURE TO CAUSE MANY STUDENTS TO QUIT FLYING!
IF YOU CAN PROVE YOUR PLAN WILL RETARD STUDENT TRAINING, MAYBE SOME COUNTRY WILL HIRE YOU TO PUT IT ON A NATION-WIDE BASIS--BUT---
--IF YOUR PLAN IS EXPOSED, IT'LL MAKE AMERICA MORE CAUTIOUS THAN EVER--AND ENDANGER YOUR MAIN BUSINESS OF SABOTAGING PLANE FACTORIES--
SILENCE! KEEP-- THAT PELICAN SNOOT OF YOURS OUT OF THE DETAILS OF MY BUSINESS!!
MEANWHILE
THANKS FOR TH' GUM, JACK-- HOPE IT'LL HELP RELIEVE MY NERVOUS TENSION!
YOU'LL BE OKAY, RABBIT--I'M GLAD YOU GOT UP TH' NERVE TO FLY AGAIN IN SPITE OF THE CRASH YOU WITNESSED!
YOU DON'T THINK ME A SISSY TO WEAR THIS PARACHUTE, DO YOU, JACK?
OF COURSE NOT--WEAR ONE ANY TIME YOU LIKE!
I'D HAVE WORN ONE IF WE HAD PLANNED ANY AEROBATICS--BUT THIS'LL JUST BE A STRAIGHT FLIGHT-- --HO-HUM--I FEEL SLEEPY!
ME, TOO-- MUST BE THIS SOUTHERN CLIMATE--
HEY-- JACK--YOU'RE ASLEEP--DON'T LEAVE ME TO FLY THIS THING ALONE I--I- GOSH-- --I I'M GETTIN' D-DIZZY---

THE PLANE DIVES EARTHWARD WITH BOTH PILOTS SLEEPING LIKE BABES --
Zzzz
FOR YEARS, NEUROTIC RABBIT, A VICTIM OF INSOMNIA, HAS TAKEN SO MANY SLEEPING PILLS HE IS PRACTICALLY IMMUNE TO SEDATIVES - SO THE "SLEEPING POI ON GUM" DIDN'T KEEP HIM ASLEEP AS LONG AS IT DID JACK --
NO! I CAN'T LEAVE JACK TO CRASH - I MUST PULL OUTA THIS SPIN AND LAND THIS THING ALONE !!
RABBIT, AFTER TH' WAY YOU STUCK WITH THAT SHIP AND SAVED JACK WE WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR EVER CALLING YOU A COWARD !
YOU'VE CONQUERED YOUR FEAR OF FLYING - YOU'RE A REAL MAN, RABBIT !
GEE, THANKS FELLOWS - I - I DO FEEL SORTA GROWN UP - I - I FEEL JUST LIKE VOTING OR SOMETHING --
LATER -
MEANTIME, JACK, SUSPICIOUS OF THESE STRANGE HAPPENINGS HAS INVESTIGATED THE RECENTLY WRECKED BIPLANE TRAINER AND FOUND A PECULIAR LIPSTICK IN THE WRECKAGE ~~~
MAYBE ONE OF DOWNWIND'S LITTLE DE-ICER STUDENTS LOST-UM LIPSTICK-UM IN PLANE !
NO! NO GIRLS IN THIS TOWN USE THIS FLAVOR LIPSTICK -- IN FACT, I NEVER RAN INTO THIS KIND BEFORE - ANYWHERE !
DOWNWIND, THE LIPSTICK DETECTIVE HA-HA-HA!
JACK NO THINK-UM YOUR LIPSTICK-UM MUCH GOOD CLUE !
PERHAPS NOT -- THERE ISN'T EVEN A TRADE-MARK ON IT -- BUT I BELIEVE IF WE FIND TH' GIRL THAT USES THIS UNUSUAL FLAVOR, WE'LL HAVE A CLUE!
I SUSPECT THAT OUR TRAINER WAS SABOTAGED - THE GIRL THAT DROPPED THIS LIPSTICK IS PROBABLY THE SABOTEUR !
WHY YOU THINK-UM ANYBODY WOULD WANT TO WRECK-UM TRAIN-UM PLANES ?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT CERTAIN PEOPLES DON'T WANT AMERICA TO TRAIN SO MANY PILOTS.
..LET'S GO TO TH' AIR TERMINAL ---SPIES AND SABOTEURS HAVE TO MOVE AROUND FAST -- SO CHANCES ARE MOST OF 'EM FLY !
HELLO, DARLIN ! SO GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK !
I BEG YOUR PARDON !!
OH --- I MISTOOK YOU FOR MY AUNT ANNIE FROM OKLAHOMA !

SMILIN' JACK

by ZACK MOSLEY

Reg U S Pat Off
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HONEY LAMB! UNCLE THEON WELCOMES YOU!
HOW DARE YOU!!
OH, SO SORRY--- I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY NIECE, LYNN!
HOW YOU DOIN', DOWN-WIND- RUN INTO ANY LIP-STICK-UM THAT TASTE-UM LIKE SPYS?
NO, FAT STUFF--BUT DOWNWIND NEVER GIVES UP--TH S JOB MAY TAKE A LONG, LONG TIME-- --I HOPE !!
YOU SAY, DAT NEW DAME MADAM MONGOOSE HAS WO K N' IN HER OFFICE IS BLIND?
YES, MUSCLE-BOUND, MADAM HAS A NEW CONTRACT TO D.STRIBUTE UN-AMERICAN LITERATURE!
YES, AN' ALSO MADAM CAN GET MUCH LONGER HOURS OUTTA TH' BLIND GIRL-- SHE CAN'T SEE WHEN IT'S QUITTING TIME!
OH--I SEE! A BLIND GIRL FO_D N' DEM PAMPH_ETS WON T GET WISE AN' BETRAY MADAM !
MADAM S A SKUNK - BUT WE GOTTA L KE ,T--- DO. WE HAFTA DRIVE HER TO DE DIPLOMATS' BALL?
YES, SHE SECURED AN INVITATION AN IS GOIN' IN DISGUISE TO CONTACT OTHER AGENTS THERE!
MEANTIME, JACK AND DOWNWIND HAVE LEFT THEIR FLYING SCHOOL IN CAPABLE HANDS AND ARE NOW IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON A SPEC AL M SSION
JACK, ,T SURE WAS SWELL OF OUR NEW BOSS TO GET US "INV TES" TO TH S DIPLOMATS' BALL!
HE WANTED US TO ENJOY TH' EVENING BEFORE WE START ON OUR NEW JOBS AS SPECIAL INVESTIGATORS FOR TH' AIR-SAFETY BOARD!

WELL, JACK I'VE GOTTA GET BUSY ON MY LIPSTICK THEORY!
NUTS! YOU KNOW KISSIN' IS NO WAY TO FIND TH' PERSON THAT SABOTAGED OUR PLANE!
--BUT TH LIPST CK WE FOUND IN OUR WRECKED PLANE WAS A BRAND I'VE NEVER TASTED BEFORE AND I NTEND TO FIND TH' GIRL THAT USES THAT UNUSUAL FLAVOR!
WELL, YOU BETTER LAY OFF KISSIN ANY OF THESE DIPLOMAT'S' LOVELIES,--OR YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF CHALLENGED TO A DUEL!
GORGEOUS, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A CIGARETTE ON TH' TERRACE? IT'S GLASSED IN--NICE AN' COZY!
!?
SO- YOU HAVE BEEN LIPSTICK RESEARCH NG! YOU OUGHTA BE ASHAMED--ROUGE ALL OVER YOUR CHEEK!!
THAT ISN'T ROUGE--TH' RED IN MY CHEEK IS TH' STING FROM TH' HAND OF A BLONDE THAT OBJECTED TO MY RESEARCH THEORY!
HA-HA!! SERVES YOU RIGHT! GUESS THAT LL TEACH YOU TO LAY OFF THIS SILLY LIPSTICK CHASE!
NO! WHEN DUTY CALLS, IT'S DOWNWIND TO TH' FORE! I'LL FIND TH' SPY THAT USES THAT LIPSTICK IF I HAVE TO KISS EVERY GIRL IN TH' COUNTRY!
AT THIS MOMENT MADAM MONGOOSE HAS ARRIVED AT THE DIPLOMAT'S' BALL ~~~
W-WHAT HAPPENED, DOWNW ND? LAST TH NG I RECALL WAS YOU WHISTLING OUR S GNAL!
YOU CAME INTO TH' GARDEN--WE WERE TRYING TO SLIP THAT GIRL, WITH TH' ODD LIPSTICK, OUT TH' S DE GATE WHEN---
I'LL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY--MY BODYGUARDS SLIPPED UP AN' BLACK-JACKED YOU!
THEN WE DROVE TO ONE OF MY PRIVATE FLYING FIELDS..I AM NOW TAKING YOU TO MY HEADQUARTERS --- FASTEN BELTS--WE ARE ABOUT TO LAND!

LATER, AT THE MONGOOSE'S HEADQUARTERS-
PSST--JACK--LOOK!
GULP! SHH--IT'S DIXIE!
DON'T LET ON WE KNOW HER TILL WE KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--- SHE'S FOLDING SOME KIND OF LEAFLETS!
IT APPEARS TO BE UN-AMERICAN LITERATURE--THEY PROBABLY HIRED HER BECAUSE SHE'S BLIND AN' CAN'T GET WISE!
MOVE ON- DE MONGOOSE WANTS YOU IN HER OFFICE!
WHY DID YOU KISS ME AND THEN TRY TO DRAG ME TO TH' POLICE?
WE FOUND A STRANGELY SCENTED LIPSTICK--SAME AS YOU USE- IN TH' WRECKAGE OF OUR PLANE--I SUSPECTED YOU OF SABOTAGING IT!
DOWN-WIND! DON'T EXPLAIN TO THIS WOMAN!
QUIET! I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU, MISTER SMILIN' JACK!
SO! YOU KNOW MY NAME!?
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU--BOTH PAST--AND FUTURE!
FUTURE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY FUTURE?
PLENTY! YOU ARE BOTH GOING TO DIE--- AND IN SUCH A WAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO CLUES LEFT!
TO THINK--AFTER ALL MY CLOSE CALLS IN TH' AIR--I GOTTA DIE AT TH' HANDS OF A WOMAN!
OH--IT WILL BEFIT YOUR PROFESSION! MOST COWBOYS PREFER TO DIE WITH THEIR BOOTS ON--I SHALL LET YOU DIE WITH YOUR HELMETS ON! I AM A KINDLY SOUL!
SO GENEROUS OF YOU! I DON'T WISH TO APPEAR NOSEY--BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY I'M TO BE KILLED?
ABOUT A YEAR AGO A CERTAIN MAN WAS ENGAGED IN A MOST PROFITABLE BUSINESS--DEALING IN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SECRETS---
--YOU WRECKED HIS BUSINESS---THAT MAN WAS KNOWN AS 'THE HEAD'!
THE HEAD?
LITTLE BLIND DIXIE DID NOT KNOW SHE WAS WORKING FOR A SABOTAGE RING UNTIL SHE OVERHEARD JACK AND DOWNWIND ARGUING WITH THE MONGOOSE
JACK, IT'S BAD ENOUGH FOR TH' MONGOOSE TO BUMP US OFF--BUT ISN'T THERE SOME WAY TO SAVE DIXIE?
I'M AFRAID NOT--AFTER TH' MONGOOSE FOUND OUT DIXIE WAS WISE TO HER BUSINESS, SHE'S TAKING NO CHANCES BY LEAVING ANY WITNESSES!
WHAT DOES SHE INTEND TO DO WITH US?

I DON'T KNOW, DIXIE! THEY'RE TAKING US TO A BARN WHERE SHE KEEPS HER PLANE!
THINK TH' MONGOOSE REALLY HAS TH' NERVE TO KILL US, JACK?
HAS SHE?! DIDN'T YOU HEAR HER SAY SHE IS TH' SISTER TO "THE HEAD"!
GET IN MY PLANE. ALL THREE OF YOU!
NOW, DARK EYES, TIE THEM TO THE SEATS. AND SAY-- DID YOU BRING THE OXYGEN TANK FOR YOU AND ME?
YES, MADAM!
JACK, IN CASE YOU ARE CURIOUS, WE'RE OFF TO THE SUB-STRATOSPHERE-- --MY WEAPON IS-- LACK OF OXYGEN!
WHY--YOU COLD-BLOODED KILLER! I SEE NOW WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID THIS WOULD BE TH' PERFECT CRIME!
YES, AS WE FLY AROUND IN THE RAREFIED AIR, DARK EYES AN' I WILL SIP OXYGEN WHILE YOU GASP FOR BREATH--
--AS YOU KNOW, THE HIGHER WE GO, THE LESS OXYGEN THERE IS IN THE SKY--
--YOU WILL SLOWLY SUFFOCATE --LATER, WHEN YOUR BODIES ARE FOUND, THE AUTOPSY WILL ONLY REVEAL DEATH FROM HEART FAILURE!
I AM INDEED A MASTER MIND. NO CLUES--NO MARKS--NO POISON--NO BULLETS FOR THE BALLISTICS EXPERTS--
YOU FIENDISH MURDERER! YOU'LL GET CAUGHT SOME-HOW-TH' SMARTEST CRIMINALS ALWAYS MAKE SOME SLIP-UP!
DIXIE, DARLIN', SAVE YOUR BREATH-- EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY IS PRECIOUS!
AT 16,000 FEET.
OO-O--UHF --UH- JACK-- --I --FEEL FAINT--
AT 18,000 FEET--
DIXIE--DIXIE--- OH--POOR KID-- IT'S GETTING HER--SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS ALREADY!!
UH PIXIE UFF UF

DARK EYES, THE ALTMETER SAYS EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FEET--OUR PASSENGERS SHOULD BE PASSING OUT SOON NOW!
TH' BLIND GIRL IS ALREADY UNCONSCIOUS MADAM--I'M CERTAINLY GLAD WE HAVE A TANK OF OXYGEN FOR OURSELVES!
POOR KID--UH--DIXIE'S STILL BREATHING--BUT SHE CAN'T LAST LONG--SHE'S TOO WEAK!
YEAH--DIXIE PROBABLY DIDN'T GET MUCH TO EAT WHILE SHE WAS WORKING FOR THAT LOW-DOWN MONGOOSE!
UH--UHF--GASP--UH--UH-
DOWNWIND--(GASP)--THERE'S STILL HOPE--THIS IS AN OLD BUS--I BELIEVE TH' SHIP HAS REACHED ITS SERVICE CEILING NOW---
SO HAVE I--(GASP)--MY HEART'S REVVING UP LIKE A GEARED-UP ENGINE AT FULL THROTTLE---I--I--CAN'T--(GASP)--TAKE IT, JACK---
DIXIE!--GASP--DOWNWIND! WE'LL LIVE--THIS--OLD PLANE WON'T GO ANY HIGHER!
DON'T JUDGE A MOTOR BY ITS COWLING! THIS IS A NEW SUPER-CHARGED ENGINE THAT WILL CLIMB UPSTAIRS LIKE A HOMESICK ANGEL---
SPEAKING OF ENGINES--IT'S TOO BAD JACK WON'T LIVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO A CERTAIN NEW MILITARY SHIP--TELL HIM HOW CLEVERLY WE SABOTAGED IT!
WELL, WE SIMPLY SUBSTITUTED NEW INSTRUMENT DIALS---
--WHEN THE MANIFOLD PRESSURE APPEARS TO BE PULLING 27 INCHES OF MERCURY, IT'LL ACTUALLY BE PULLING ABOUT 40 INCHES!
JACK, YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'LL DO TO AN ENGINE--IT WILL LITERALLY BLOW IT UP!
ZACK MUSSE
YOU'RE NOT SO CLEVER--THE PILOT WILL GET WISE, ANYWAY--HE'LL SEE TH' HEAD TEMPERATURE AND R P M GAUGES GO UP!
WE ALSO CHANGED THEM ACCORDINGLY--WE EVEN ADVANCED THE THROTTLE STOP--THE MONGOOSE NEVER OMITS A DETAIL!
MADAM, YOUR PLANE ISN'T CLIMBING AS HIGH AS YOU EXPECTED--- TWENTY THOUSAND SEEMS TO BE OUR LIMIT!
THAT'S HIGH ENOUGH--IT JUST MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO STAY UP LONGER!
DIXIE AND DOWNWIND ARE ALREADY UNCONSCIOUS--CHECK THEIR PULSE, DARK EYES!
AS YOU WISH, MADAM--SAY, THIS GUY JACK IS A TOUGH ONE--HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS!
HE'S PROBABLY DONE LOTS OF ALTITUDE FLYING AND IS HARDENED TO IT--BUT TH' BEST HEART IN TH' WORLD COULDN'T STAND THIS RAREFIED AIR FOR LONG---
SEE--JACK'S REACHED HIS LIMIT--HE'S OUT NOW--IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MINUTES UNTIL ALL THREE WILL BE DEAD!!
GLURG
YOU FELT THEIR PULSE, AND YOU SAY ALL THREE HEARTS ARE STILL BEATING?
YES, BUT THEY CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER--LET ME WHIFF SOME MORE OXYGEN---I'M EXHAUSTED IN THIS RAREFIED AIR, JUST FROM STEPPING BACK THERE!

OH!!
WHAT'S WRONG, DARK EYES?
I CAN'T OPEN THE VALVE ON OUR OXYGEN TANK--IT MUST HAVE FROZEN!!
THERE, STUPID! ALL YOU NEEDED TO DO WAS USE SOME PLIERS TO OPEN THE VALVE ON OUR OXYGEN TANK!
I GUESS IT WASN'T FROZEN--SEE--TH' OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE GAUGE SHOWS ONLY---ONLY---
GOOD NIGHT!! IT'S THIRTY-TWO DEGREES--FREEZING POINT---AND WE'VE RUN INTO A STRATUM OF HIGH CLOUDS--
32
TEMP
- THAT MEANS PRECIPITATION - AND WITH TH' FREEZING POINT AND TH' DEW POINT TH' SAME, IT MEANS ICE!!
IMPOSSIBLE! NOT ICE THIS HIGH! GAUGE MUST BE WRONG!
IT IS POSSIBLE! I'M AN AERONAUTICAL EXPERT--I SHOULD KNOW SOMETIMES YOU GET REVERSED CONDITIONS AT HIGH ALTITUDES!
OH THE CONTROLS ARE GETTING LOGY-- THE SHIP IS ICING UP!!
KEEP LETTING DOWN--TRY TO GET BACK TO EARTH BEFORE THE WINGS LOSE ALL THEIR LIFT!
I AM--BUT WE'RE STILL PICKING UP ICE--THE CONTROLS RESPOND LIKE A WET RAG!!
WHEN A PLANE IS IN ATMOSPHERE WITH AN ICING CONDITION, ICE BUILDS UP ON LEADING EDGES OF THE WINGS AND CONTROL SURFACES---
--- ICE CHANGES CONTOUR OF AIRFOIL AND THE NATURAL VACUUM ABOVE THE WING IS DISTURBED AND "LIFT" IS LOST---
OH--WE'RE FALLING--- AND THIS BUS HAS NO DE-ICERS!
-THE STRAIN FROM THE LONG SPIN WAS TOO GREAT--AS SHE LEVELED OUT, AN AILERON SNAPPED AND--
JACK COMES TO AND FREES HIMSELF OF HIS BONDS-
DIXIE! ARE YOU ALIVE?
Y-YES, JACK!
GET US DOWN FROM HERE BEFORE WE FALL AN BREAK OUR NECKS, JACK!

I'LL BANDAGE YOUR CUTS WITH STRIPS OF MY SHIRT, DIXIE! ARE YOU ALL IN ONE PIECE, DOWNWIND?
MY NOSE IS BUSTED AGAIN--AND SUMPIN'S WRONG WITH MY LEG--BUT LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONGOOSE!
SHE'S ONLY UNCONSCIOUS--TH' LUCK OF SOME PEOPLE!
WELL, HER ASSISTANT WASN'T SO LUCKY--THE CONTROL COLUMN WENT CLEAR THROUGH TH POOR DEVIL!
DOWNWIND, REMEMBER WHAT THE MONGOOSE WAS BOASTING ABOUT WHEN SHE THOUGHT WE WERE GUNNA DIE?
YES--SHE SAID SHE HAD SABOTAGED A NEWLY DEVELOPED AIRCRAFT ENGINE---THAT WOULD EXPLODE ON TH' TEST FLIGHT!
RIGHT---I'VE GOTTA GET TO A PHONE AND SEND OUT A GENERAL ALARM TO ALL AIRCRAFT PLANTS!
MY LEG IS INJURED--DIXIE AND I WILL STAY HERE AND GUARD THE MONGOOSE WITH HER GUN!
WELL, MADAM, IT LOOKS AS IF YOUR LITTLE EMPIRE HAD TUMBLED DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!
SHUT UP! I'M NOT LICKED YET--AS LONG AS THERE'S A SPARK OF LIFE IN ME I CAN DEAL OUT VENGEANCE!
WELL, DON'T TRY DEALING OUT ANY NOW UNLESS YOU WANT TH' BUSINESS END OF THIS AUTOMATIC SPITTING HOT LEAD IN YOUR FACE!!
DOWNWIND! YOU'RE GROANING---WHAT'S WRONG?
I--UH--OH--SOMETHIN'S HURTING INSIDE--I MUST BE INJURED WORSE THAN I THOUGHT---
--I--I--FEEL DIZZY---I'M--GONNA PASS OUT---DIXIE--TH' GUN--DON'T LET---MONGOOSE--GET--AWAY---
--B-BUT, DOWNWIND! WHAT GOOD IS A GUN TO ME?! I CAN'T SEE!!
HO-HO-HO! IF THIS ISN'T TH' CROWNING PAY-OFF! DOWNWIND PASSED OUT AND NOW I'M BEING GUARDED BY A BLIND GIRL!!
DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO RUN AWAY--I--I'LL--SHOOT IN TH' DIRECTION OF YOUR VOICE!
HO-HO-HO! BUT HOW CAN YOU TELL WHERE I AM WHEN I STOP TALKING? GOOD-BYE, DEARIE!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
--AT LAST--A FARM--AND PHONE WIRES--NOW I CAN SEND OUT A WARNING ABOUT THAT SABOTAGED MILITARY PLANE--IF I'M NOT TOO LATE--
HELLO--MAY I USE YOUR PHONE? GOTTA CALL LONG DISTANCE--IT'S VERY URGENT!
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU--TIMES HAS BEEN PRETTY TOUGH LATELY--AIN'T MADE MUCH MONEY---
I UNDERSTAND! I'LL GLADLY PAY FOR TH' CALL!
OH--THAT AIN'T IT--I MEAN THINGS HAS BEEN SO TOUGH WE COULDN'T PAY OUR BILL AN' TH' PHONE WAS TOOK OUT YESTERDAY!
MEANTIME, AT SKY-DEVIL AIRCRAFT COMPANY--
WELL, SOUTHEY--IF THIS CRAFT DOES ANYWHERE NEAR WHAT OUR FIGURES INDICATE--IT'LL BE TH' DEADLIEST MILITARY WEAPON IN TH' WORLD!
WELL, WE'LL SOON KNOW, DOME--MILT'S GONNA GIVE IT TH' WORKS!
XT-11
JACK LOCATES A PHONE AT THE NEXT FARM--
I'LL CALL SKY-DEVIL FIRST--I KNOW THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON A NEW TYPE MILITARY PLANE--HELLO--SKY-DEVIL? THIS IS SMILIN' JACK OF AIR SAFETY BOARD--
--I'VE A TIP A CERTAIN NEW TYPE MILITARY PLANE HAS BEEN SABOTAGED--
WHAT? WE'VE A NEW SHIP---BUT IT JUST TOOK OFF ON ITS TEST FLIGHT A FEW MOMENTS AGO!!
MEANTIME, THE MONGOOSE, HAVING ESCAPED DIXIE'S BLIND-SHOOTING, LOOKS UP AND SEES----
WHY--IT'S THAT NEW MILITARY SHIP THAT MY ENGINEER AND I "FIXED"--HOW FORTUNATE!
I SHALL BE ABLE TO WITNESS MY CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT---THAT BEAUTIFUL ROCKET WILL LITERALLY EXPLODE ANY SECOND NOW!!
DIXIE--WHAT HAPPENED? I MUST BE INJURED WORSE THAN I THOUGHT--DID I PASS OUT?
YES--JACK LEFT YOU GUARDING THE MONGOOSE WITH HER GUN WHILE HE RUSHED AWAY TO WARN TH' AIRCRAFT COMPANIES!
OH, I REMEMBER! WHEN THE MONGOOSE THOUGHT WE WERE DYING SHE BOASTED TO US ABOUT HAVING SABOTAGED A NEW MILITARY SHIP--SAY--WHERE IS SHE?
SHE ESCAPED WHEN YOU PASSED OUT--I GRABBED YOUR GUN AN' FIRED AS I HEARD HER RUN--BUT SINCE I CAN'T SEE---IT WAS NO SCORE!
BY THE TIME JACK REACHED A PHONE THE DOOMED PLANE WAS ALREADY ON ITS TEST HOP---
WOW! WHAT SPEED--AND MANIFOLD PRESSURE PULLING ONLY 27 INCHES OF MERCURY!

SMILIN' JACK

by ZACK MOSLEY

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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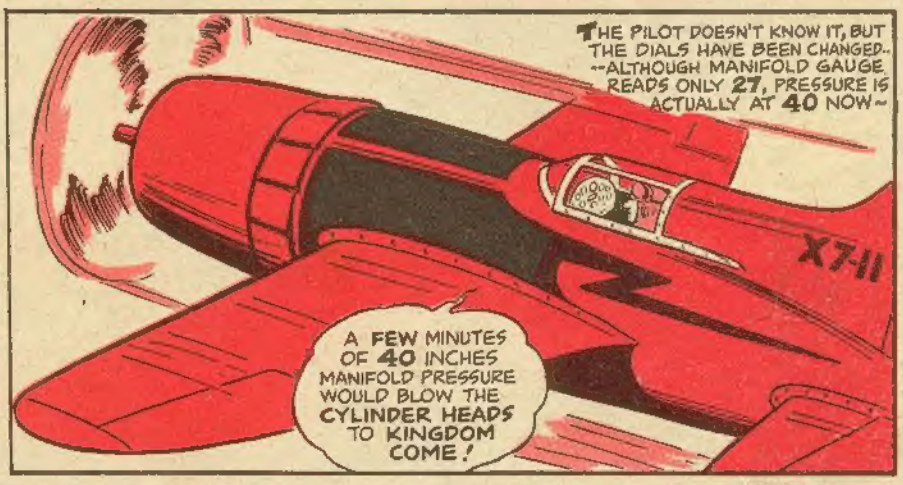
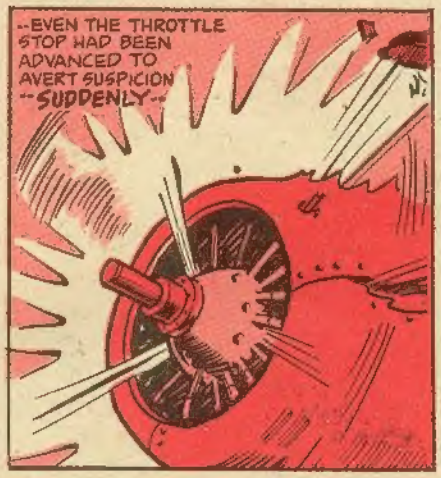
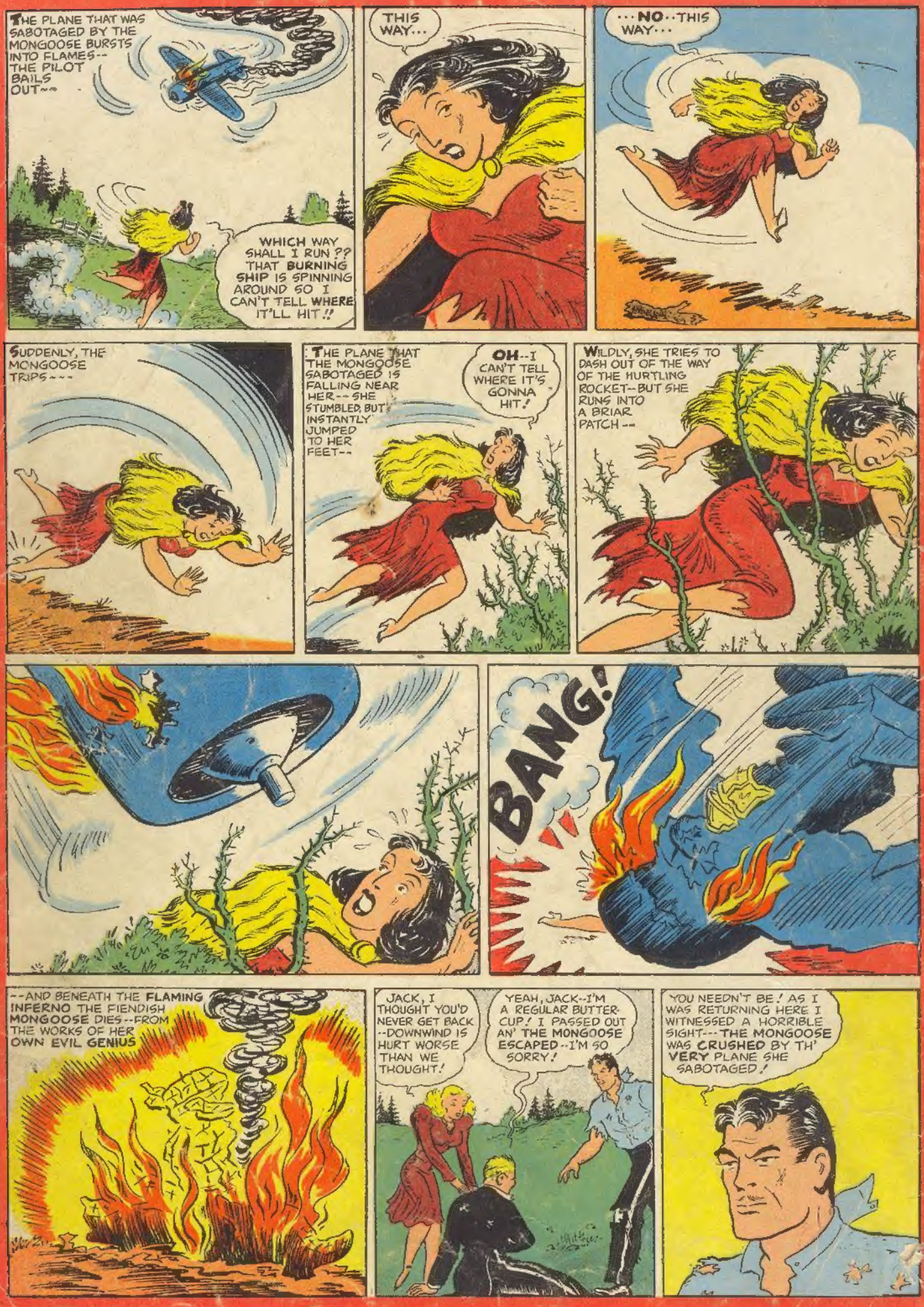
IF I OPENED UP TO 40 INCHES, NO DOUBT THIS BUS WOULD SET A WORLD RECORD--BUT I WON'T TRY THAT TILL I KNOW THIS BABY BETTER--EVEN THEN I WOULDN'T HOLD IT OPEN LONG---


THE PILOT DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT THE DIALS HAVE BEEN CHANGED--ALTHOUGH MANIFOLD GAUGE READS ONLY 27, PRESSURE IS ACTUALLY AT 40 NOW~
X7-11
A FEW MINUTES OF 40 INCHES MANIFOLD PRESSURE WOULD BLOW THE CYLINDER HEADS TO KINGDOM COME!

THE CYLINDER HEADS ARE WHITE HOT NOW--BUT THE PILOT ISN'T WISE--HEAD TEMPERATURE AND "TACH" DIALS WERE ALSO CHANGED ACCORDINGLY--




THE PLANE THAT WAS SABOTAGED BY THE MONGOOSE BURSTS INTO FLAMES-- THE PILOT BAILS OUT--
WHICH WAY SHALL I RUN ?? THAT BURNING SHIP IS SPINNING AROUND SO I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT'LL HIT !!
THIS WAY...
...NO..THIS WAY...
SUDDENLY, THE MONGOOSE TRIPS---
THE PLANE THAT THE MONGOOSE SABOTAGED IS FALLING NEAR HER-- SHE STUMBLED, BUT INSTANTLY JUMPED TO HER FEET--
OH--I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT'S GONNA HIT!
WILDLY, SHE TRIES TO DASH OUT OF THE WAY OF THE HURTLING ROCKET--BUT SHE RUNS INTO A BRIAR PATCH --
BANG!
--AND BENEATH THE FLAMING INFERNO THE FIENDISH MONGOOSE DIES--FROM THE WORKS OF HER OWN EVIL GENIUS
JACK, I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET BACK --DOWNWIND IS HURT WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT!
YEAH, JACK--I'M A REGULAR BUTTER-CUP! I PASSED OUT AN' THE MONGOOSE ESCAPED--I'M SO SORRY!
YOU NEEDN'T BE! AS I WAS RETURNING HERE I WITNESSED A HORRIBLE SIGHT--- THE MONGOOSE WAS CRUSHED BY TH' VERY PLANE SHE SABOTAGED!